

भारत सरकार  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

विदेश मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

नई दिल्ली  
NEW DELHI

KWI 7

25/4/1950 Vol. V

~~TOP SECRET~~

9

फाइल नं०  
FILE NO.

KWI

खण्ड  
VOLUME

25/4/1950

Vol. - V

टिप्पणियां/पत्राचार

NOTES/CORRESPONDENCE

विषय  
Subject

Declassified

Please

अर्जुन कुमार चटर्जी

(अर्जुन कुमार चटर्जी)  
(ARUN KUMAR CHATTERJEE)  
संयुक्त सचिव (वि. व. म. वि.)  
Joint Secretary (CNV)  
विदेश मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली  
Ministry of External Affairs  
New Delhi

पिछले हवाले

Previous Reference

Notes: pages 1 to 37

Corr: pages 148289

Keep

28/12/50 total

326



बाद के हवाले

Later Reference

PHOTO COPY

Contents more than 30 yrs.



Subject:- Ashes of Sri Subhas Chandra Bose

Cop of ATE to be kept

No. SCU 1190-1



~~TOP SECRET~~

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

File No. 5(1)NGO-T.

Valyure

of ~~Embassy~~ on India in Japan  
Tokyo

SECTION

5

NOTES

CORRESPONDENCE

Subject

ASHES OF SRI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

ed on

of S. O. Supdt.

of S. O. Supdt.

of Clerk

Previous References

Later References

F.26(14)48 - destroyed in '85

F.1(33)88/64. ] Pol Sec

F. No. Tok/551/6/72  
Tok/751/3/78  
Tok/551/1/81 ] Pol Sec



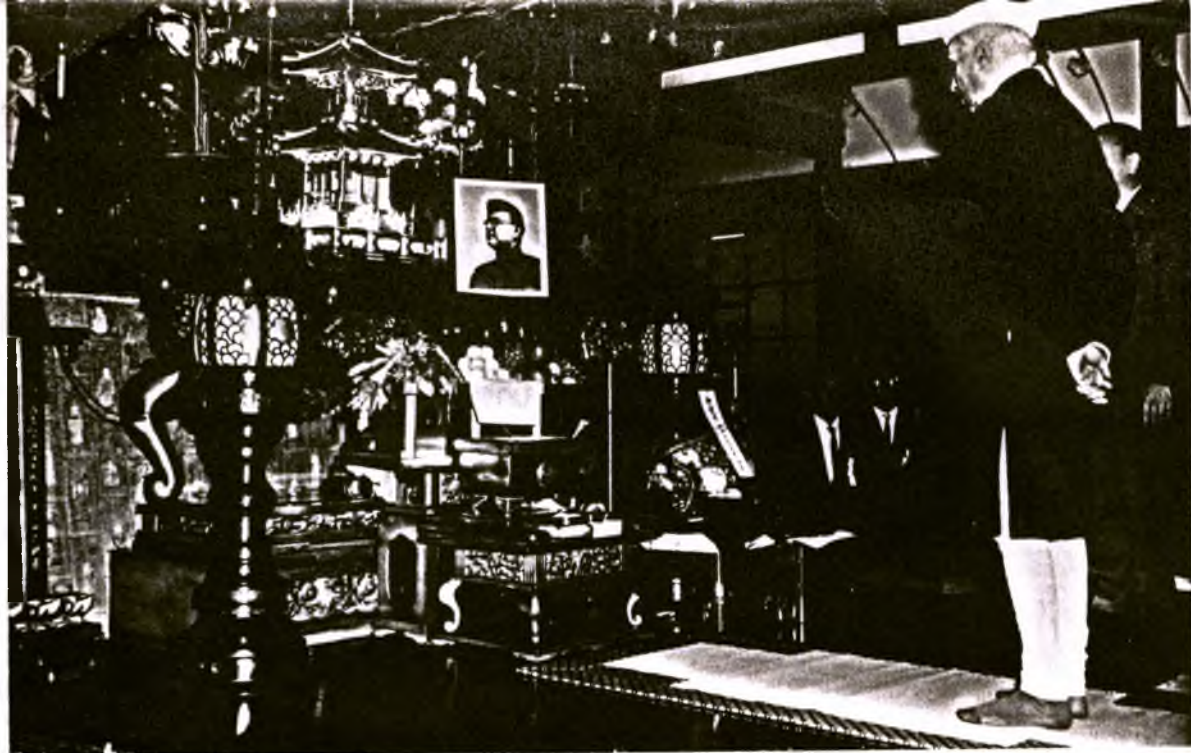
To Embassy of India in Japan.

His Excellency Prime Minister Nehruji  
who visited the Reukoji temple  
on October 13, 1957.

Sl. 103

Yours truly,  
Chisune Nishimura







Embassy of India in Japan, Tokyo

File No. F.5(1)NGO-I

Subject:- Funds of the Indian  
Independence League

Dy No. 553/52 (1) (p 1-8/c)

It'd. KKC.

Dy No. 3575/52(2) (p 9/c)

(3) Issue (p 10/c)

Dy No. T.6/38/52(4) (p 11/c)

Please see p. 111/c of linked  
file F.26(14)/48.

lt.  
31/10

The letter of credit copy has already been  
sent to p. 111. Below. We shall send  
another copy.

V.C. P.  
24/10

~~Am b.~~

Ind. Assn. has been

L  
31/10/52

Mr. W. S. Chugh

(5) Issue (p 12/c)

(6) Issue (p 13/c)

(7) Issue (p 14/c)

F.R. (8) (p 15/c)

Filed.

lt.  
10/11/52

Dy. No. T.S. 43/52(9) (p 16/c)

May file.

lt.  
13/11  
F/S

V.C. P.  
13/11

(10) Issue (p 17/c)



Dy. No. 48TS/52 (11) (p 18/c)  
Dy. No. 49TS/52 (12) (p 19/c)  
 (13) Issue (p 20/c)  
Dy. No. 67/52 (14) (p 21-22/c)  
 (15) Issue (p 23/c)  
Dy. No. 28/53 (16) (p 24/c)  
Dy. No. 29/53 (17) (p 25/c)

Seen by the Amb. File.  
 Itd. V.C.T.

Dy. No. 6TS/53 (18) (p 26/c)  
Dy. No. 7TS/53 (19) (p 27/c)  
 (20) Issue (p 28/c)

Dy No. 16-TS/53 (21) (p 29/c)

Immediate action please. Please tell me when it is complete.

File is with Cypher Assistant with whom this letter should be filed.

Only Reg(G), Cypher Asstt and Accountant to know of this matter.

Itd. RS 12-5-53

The amount of ¥ 20,000 has been removed from SS's safe and handed over to Accountant, and has been credited as indicated in PUC. A copy of the Receipt Voucher is placed on the file for information and record.

h.c.  
 12-5-53/  
 SS(1)

Reference P.UC.

2. If the Ambassador approves, the draft letter placed below may issue.

*Rubish*  
 14-5-53

Ambassador

*The letter has been given my signature  
 15/5*

(22) Issue (p 31/c)  
Dy. No. 102/53 (23) (p 32-40/c)

File please.

Itd. R.S.

\* p. 30/c



F 5(1) NGO-I

Dy. No. 205/53 (24) (p. 41/c)(25) Issue (p. 42/c)Dy. No. 19/54 (26) (p. 43-45/c)(27) Issue (p. 46-47/c)Dy. No. 148/54 (28) (p. 48/c)(29) Issue (p. 49/c)

Submitted for information.

15/3  
15/3  
15/3

15/3

Dy. No. 181/55 (30) (p. 50-51/c)Submitted. All the connecting papers have been  
flagged. Perhaps we need only invite the  
attention of the Ministry to their own references  
instead of attempting to frame a reply.

15/7

FZ

Ambassador.

Well,

15/7

Very

Draft submitted for approval.

19/7

Issue.

19/7

(31) Issue (p. 52/c).

In connection with the visit this morning,  
to the Chancery, of the Chief Priest of the Renkoji  
temple accompanied by the management  
the temple a draft telegram is put up for  
consideration of Ambassador.

19/7

26/7/55



(32) Issue (p 53/c)

Dy No. 197/55

(33) (p 54/c)

Submitted

klm  
29/1/55

F.S.

With refce to p.u.c a Draft telegram  
is p.u. for consideration

Atkhan  
29/1/55

Atkhan  
29/1/55

Amb.

(34) Issue (p 55/c)

Dy No 204/55

(35) (p 56/c)

Seen by Amb. and F.S. Filed.

klm  
1/8/55

With reference to p.u.c the date  
for the memorial service already  
chosen by the temple authorities  
is 18<sup>th</sup> August. This is also the  
date accepted by the Govt of India  
as being the date of the death.  
Ambassador may advise if this  
date should be adhered to or if some  
change in it is desired.

(Flags N, R & Sayer)

Atkhan  
1/8/55

Amb.

If the service is held  
on the anniversary of his  
death, then it should be arranged  
to change the service. Do not  
like it with a sub. letter. Consult with  
first.

Atkhan  
1/8/55

(R)  
I am getting in touch  
with the chief - Priest



F S(1) NG 0-1

Dy No. 215/55 (36) (P57-2)

For information, please

17/8

Deposited HNSA

17/8

fs.

With reference to E.A. Ministry's telegram No. 28436 of July 30th, I summarize below the developments to-date regarding the memorial service for the late Subhas Chander Bose.

The Chief Priest of the Renkoji Temple wherein the ashes are being kept met me in details and subsequently the Ambassador briefly. He was informed that the Embassy had no objection to his idea of a memorial service on August 18, 1955. He was advised, however, that the memorial service should be conducted in an appropriate and dignified manner. Apparently the temple management committee members amongst whom there are also members of the Diet and of the Municipal Assembly sensed the interest of the Embassy and decided to gain political profit thereby. This was discovered when I met the Director of the Asian Affairs Bureau and particularly the Chief of Protocol who was rather worried that we were encouraging the temple management committee in collecting funds both privately and from the Japanese Government to have a Japanese styled memorial service. The Japanese style memorial service includes besides the brief religious service, feasting and distribution of gifts on as lavish a scale as is warranted by the circumstances of those who sponsor the memorial service. The Director of the Asian Affairs Bureau felt that the Gaimusho should be represented at the memorial service but the Chief of Protocol was quite clear that it would not be proper for the Japanese Government to be represented at a memorial service unless the service was sponsored by either a Diplomatic Mission or the



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No 7ES  
F5(1)NG07

Japanese Government itself. So far as sponsorship by the Japanese Government was concerned there was little time to put the matter up to the Japanese Government for a decision. Also it was unlikely that the Japanese Government would in any case agree to holding the service in the Renkoji Temple or in any other temple and not prefer a non-religious place. The Director of the Asian Affairs Bureau was agreeable, however, to attending the service in his private capacity providing the circumstances so warranted. Upon subsequent discussions with the Chief Priest and the temple management committee it was found that the temple authorities had indeed thought of collecting money and doing publicity which incidentally but materially would be of benefit to the Renkoji Temple. The Renkoji Temple is not a very popular temple in Tokyo being of the Nichiren Sect which is the minority Buddhist Sect in Japan. Keeping these factors in view the Chief Priest was advised that the Embassy would not be happy if the memorial service was followed by feasting and revelry or any undesirable publicity. The Chief Priest assured me that he himself was not interested in any money and would ensure that the service was conducted in a simple but appropriate manner. He felt, however, that a service on a more elaborate scale might be conducted later on.

The temple authorities besides sending a formal intimation to us also sent intimations to certain other individuals. The Embassy staff was accordingly advised to feel free to attend the service. A wreath was sent on behalf of the Ambassador and under his instructions and in his absence on tour to the Hokkaido Island I attended the service on August 18th. The Registrar from the Trade Section was also present. Amongst the Indians there was Mr. S.S. Virik of Malaya, the former I.N.A. cadet in Japan and presently studying at Tokyo University.



Mr. Sahay's house to the Renkoji Temple in September, 1945. Also Mr. Murthy, the younger brother of the 'famous' Mr. Murthy who is supposed to have grown rich at the expense of the I.N.A. funds, two Indian visitors whose names I do not know and another Indian resident in Tokyo but whose family is settled in Ceylon.

I gathered that the Chief Priest has during the past years also held private services on each August 18 but has not specifically notified any one of the services being held and as such the attendance, if any, was by the followers of the Nichiren Sect who happened to be visiting Renkoji Temple at that time. On this occasion such stray visitors were apparently confined to the outer halls and the corridors during the period of the service. Inside the service hall which would normally seat 60 or 70 persons only 25 persons were present besides the temple priests. Amongst them were Lady Tojo, wife of the late General Tojo with her A.D.C., ex-General Kawabe, former Supreme Commander of the Burma Area Forces, ex-Lt.General Nakamura, former Commander-in-Chief of the Siam Area Army, ex-Lt.General Mutaguchi, former Commander-in-Chief of the North Burma Advanced Army which went upto Imphal and ex-Colonel Fujiwara, who was the Adviser-in-Chief to the I.N.A. in Burma and Principal Staff Officer of the Southern Area Army. It might be mentioned that Lt. General Nakamura and Colonel Fujiwara were taken to India during the I.N.A. trials and served imprisonment as War Criminals in Singapore. The other three Generals served their term as War Criminals in Sugamo in Japan. I understand that all of these ex army officers are now in private business. I do not know the names of the other persons as I was not introduced to them but I spotted two members of the House of Councillors who were noticeable on account of their distinctive purple colour lapel badges which signified the membership of the House of Councillors.



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FSC/NGO/

I understand that Mr. Majumdar, the present President of the Indian Association had initially thought of attending the service but desisted from doing so. He was apparently prevailed upon by the few vocal members of the Indian community who either do not accept the fact of Netaji's death or dislike participation in anything connected with Mr. Murthy and Mr. Aiyar.

The service started just after 3.00 p.m. and lasted for slightly less than an hour. The first half consisted of prayers in Japanese and the latter half of recitation from the Geeta. There were no speeches on this occasion. All present burnt incense according to Japanese Buddhist ritual in front of an altar inside the hall. The wooden box containing the ashes was not placed on the altar but kept in a different part of the hall. I believe that this was done in order to avoid any controversy about honouring the ashes which are still not accepted by some as genuine and also to avoid any feeling that any particular human being was being worshipped. I think that the service as such was conducted in a simple but very dignified and orderly manner.

After the service I was introduced to Lady Tojo and the ex army officers named above. I gathered from them that Count Keizo Shibusawa grandson of the founder of the former Shibusawa Zaibatsu, presently President of the International Telegraph and Telephone Company etc. is thinking of financing a Subhas Chander Bose study group in Japan. The Generals present at the service were fairly enthusiastic about the idea but did not clarify as to what the objective of the study group would be.

The urgent issue seems to me to be the disposal of the ashes. Although two successive Heads of Mission in accordance with Government instructions have asked the Chief Priest of the Renkoji Temple to continue as



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FS(ON)60-L

the custodian of the ashes on behalf of the Embassy of India the box containing the ashes bears no seals of the Government. Aesthetically the box is not very attractive either. There is no reason perhaps to suspect that the Chief Priest would have tampered with the contents of the box in any manner as he is not particularly interested in the ashes one way or the other. He is nevertheless a fairly aged gentleman and not getting any younger. If, on the other hand, we put Government seals on the box now expectations will immediately be aroused that Government are likely to take over the ashes soon. Also the temple management authorities may raise enough fuss thereafter to oblige us in donating some money for the temple. I feel fairly satisfied that the Chief Priest is a good man and speaks sincerely when he states that he is not interested in making any money out of his custodianship of the ashes. He does say, however, that whatever we may give should be for the temple thereby implying an expectation, not unreasonable of an eventual donation from Government for the temple. It would be best, therefore, if whatever donation has to be given is given only at one point of time and that too only after a final decision has been reached on the disposal of the ashes. It might be better, under the circumstances, not to put any Government seals on the box containing the ashes until a firm decision has been reached about the disposition of the ashes themselves. Perhaps these things cannot be hurried but if the ashes are accepted as genuine it would be desirable to arrange a somewhat more appropriate custody thereof than is the case at present and at least a more proper receptacle for them.

A.K.Dar  
( A.K.Dar )  
25.8.55



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NOTES

FS(1)NGO-2

In my view, we should let the ashes be where they are now in the Renkoji Temple for the present. I do not think it would be wise at this stage to take any step such as F.S. has suggested to put Government seals on the box containing the ashes.

A copy of these notes may be forwarded to the E.A. Ministry for information.

*B.R. Sen*

( B.R. Sen )  
30. 8. 55

F.S.

Issue letter dictated to Mukam.

*Handwritten:* (21) Lms (P58/c) 30/9

Dy No. 265/54

(38)

(P59/c)

Ambassador may kindly see p.m.c. which was handed to me personally by the spokesman of the temple management committee. The Chief Priest has neither approached the Gaimusho nor us personally on this service. In fact the temple management committee went to the Gaimusho first and only after I told the Gaimusho that we knew nothing about this service we approached. It will be noted that whilst the service is supposed to be held for the 10th Anniversary of the Death it is actually being held on the 18th September. This was explained to me by the temple authorities as being a slight verbal error for the service is the 10th Anniversary of the date of reception of the ashes at the temple. This also is incorrect for the ashes were received there on the 8th Sept 1945 according to our information.

Amb.

*Handwritten:* 12/9

We will not take

any action / Gaimusho

may be informed accordingly

*Handwritten:* 18/9

At the up...  
Heater with...  
pa



F5(1)N607

In connection with the proposed second memorial service arranged by the Renkoji Temple for September the 18th. Mr. Kawasaki, <sup>whom I met today,</sup> was either unable or unwilling to clarify in detail why the Gaimusho was interesting itself in this service when they had not done so in the previous service. From what I could gather it appears that there is still some disparity of thinking between the Protocol Division and the Asian Affairs Bureau. Apparently the earlier decision of the Gaimusho not to be represented ~~at~~ the August 18th service was hasty and has been held incorrect by the higher ups in the Government including Mr. Hatoyama who according to Mr. Kawasaki has been influenced by various Diet Members. I have explained clearly to Mr. Kawasaki and he agrees that the Government of India could not possibly be expected to attend a service every month, and that the Embassy would not in any way participate in the proposed service for September the 18th. I have also informed Mr. Kawasaki that newspapers are already beginning to wonder as to why the Gaimusho was not represented at the previous service and why the Indian Embassy will not be represented at the proposed service. I have clarified that whilst we could not but welcome any honour that the Government of Japan may wish to render to one of our national heroes it would be unfortunate if this is done in a manner which would invite controversy and participation by the Gaimusho in the September 18th service is likely to do so under the circumstances. Mr. Kawasaki said that he would do his best ~~not~~ to see that the Press does not create any controversy at the Gaimusho's non-attendance on the last service and the Indian Embassy's non-attendance at the proposed service and that he would also ensure that any participation by the Gaimusho now was done in as ~~an~~ <sup>a</sup> unobtrusive manner as possible.

I have a feeling that in deciding to participate in the proposed service the Gaimusho is partly atoning



Noted  
13010601

and  
for its non-attendance on the last occasion / partly  
there is some other reason which Mr. Kawasaki was not  
willing to give out. However, he is quite clear that  
the Indian Embassy could not properly be expected to  
attend another memorial service on September the 18th  
after having done<sup>so</sup> on August 18th which was the more  
correct date.

HKS  
( A.K. Dar )  
15. 9. 55

Ambassador

Good. Thanks.

Pa. Dar  
15/9/55

Deposit.

HKS  
15/9

Subsequent to the above I ~~have~~ made further  
enquiries about the second memorial service on September  
18th, 1955. September 18th was selected by the temple  
authorities because according to Japanese Buddhist  
tradition a memorial service can be held every month  
so long as the date is the same as the date of the death.  
About 35 persons in all were present at the second memo-  
rial service at the Renkoji Temple. The assemblage  
included Lady Tojo, ex-General Kawabe, the ~~Sec~~ Secretary of  
Mr. Shigemitsu, representing the Foreign Minister of  
Japan, Mr. Hattori, the Chief of the India desk represent-  
ing the Gaimusho, Mr. Matsuda, also of the India desk  
and five Indians. Of these five, one was Mr. Tandon  
of the P.T.I. who went primarily as a reporter. The  
remaining four were Mr. S.S. Virik, a visiting Buddhist  
Monk, another person from Ceylon who claims Indian descent



and a casual Indian visitor. Mr. Shigemitsu sent flowers through his Secretary and the Gaimusho donated Yen 20,000 as condolence money which is customary in Japan on such occasions but which was also given on this occasion as part compensation to the Chief Priest for keeping the ashes. Three persons spoke at the occasion including the Chief Priest himself. The Chief Priest apart from other things expressed his annoyance that the Indian community by absenting itself should continue to imply that the ashes were not genuine.

This change in the attitude of the Gaimusho, to a memorial service for Netaji, in comparison to abstention on the last occasion was, I gathered, owing to differences of opinion in the Gaimusho itself. This question had all along been dealt with in the Protocol Division of the Gaimusho and the Chief of Protocol ruled previously in consultation with the Vice-Foreign Minister that the Gaimusho could not properly interest itself in any memorial service organized privately at a temple. The Asian Affairs Bureau, on the other hand, had held that this attitude would, apart from being somewhat disrespectful to Netaji not be good public relations either. The temple management authorities had all along been anxious both to collect some money for the temple by holding a memorial service and also to secure some publicity for the temple itself. They complained about the abstention of the Gaimusho from the August 18th service to certain Diet Members who represented to some Cabinet Ministers till eventually Mr. Shigemitsu was apprised of the position. The Foreign Minister was generally favourable to the stand of the Asian Affairs Bureau and the Asian Affairs Bureau accordingly encouraged the temple to go ahead with the preparation for the service on the 18th September irrespective of whether the Indian Embassy or any one else was interested or not. I have also been given to understand that



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that the Japanese Embassy in India consulted General Bhonsle on the matter and got the impression that a formal memorial service would be quite appropriate. I doubt if the Japanese Embassy knew or mentioned to General Bhonsle that ~~the~~ memorial service had already been held on August 18th and that the Indian Embassy had been represented at that service. This, however, is a somewhat irrelevant point as the responsibility for encouraging the temple authorities to hold the second memorial service on September 18th rests fully with the Gaimusho who sought to rectify their earlier incorrect stand by participation in this second memorial service.

I cannot help feeling, ~~nevertheless~~, that the Gaimusho are interested in having the ashes sent to India in order to close the still lurking suspicion in their minds that the Indians somehow hold the Imperial Japanese Government responsible for some negligence in not safeguarding the life of Netaji and the property of the I.N.A. which he was reportedly carrying. So far as I am aware, however, no formal approach has yet been made by the Government of Japan to ascertain whether the Government of India would arrange for the removal of the ashes from Japan. In the meantime both the Vernacular and the English Press is again attempting to find some sensational mystery in this apparent controversy. We can obviously take no initiative in the matter unless the Government of India who are fully aware of the situation indicate whether they are willing to proceed further.

*A.K. Dar*  
( A.K. Dar )  
20. 9. 55

Ambassador

*Copies of notes from p. 10 may be  
forwarded to EAM  
for their consideration of the grounds.*



The motive of the gainers in lending is support to the record of the controversy in this way is not quite clear.

The Japanese Embassy in India is apparently taking some interest and so should be asked. It may be worthwhile asking Dr. Shastri about it.

I ~~am~~ adduce to my remarks of the so on. I should like to select from time being the Japanese exhibits for.

I shall discuss this at EAM where I am in full view.

Palmer

21/9

Dy: No. 266/SS (39) (p60-62/c)

Dy: No. 268/SS (40) (p67/c)

(41) Issue (p65/c)

(42) Issue (p66/c)

78



EMBASSY OF INDIA. TOKYO

SUBJECT:- LATE ~~MR.~~ SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE AND I.N.A. TREASURE  
out

Set/below are the views and feelings of some of the more vocal members of the Indian community on the above subject which have come to my notice during the last one year.

A. THE FACT OF DEATH:-

(1) There are reports that Subhas Chandra Bose when he left Rangoon had no intention of proceeding to Japan via Formosa. If that is so it seems odd that he suddenly changed his mind after arrival at Saigon. It is possible that he was compelled by the Japanese authorities to board a plane that was going to Japan.

(2) The story put up by the Japanese that Bose was fleeing from the Occupation Authorities is highly derogatory for no leader like Subhas Chandra Bose would leave his men without making any arrangements for their safety and well-being.

(3) Even if it is conceded that he was coming to Japan with the object of final discussions with the Japanese authorities and voluntarily boarded the plane at Formosa it seems unusual that on the one hand he should after the accident be well enough to prevail upon the attending Japanese doctors to give priority in treatment to others and at the same time that he should ~~certainly~~ have died over-night. If it is correct that he was fully conscious despite his burns on the night of August 17th might it not be that the Japanese doctors were under instructions not to treat him properly so that they would have less difficulty with the anticipated demands of the Occupation Authorities for turning him over.

(4) It seems that beside the testimony of Habib-ur-Rahman there is no direct evidence as to the fact of death and subsequent cremation. In case the Government of India have satisfied themselves that the death and cremation are correct and no negligence can be attributed to any source the full facts for such a conclusion should be published.

B. THE GENUINENESS OF THE ASHES:

(1) It is not known whether Habib-ur-Rahman was



physically well enough to supervise the cremation and the collection of the ashes.

(2) Even if Habib-ur-Rahman did supervise the cremation and collection of the ashes there is no direct evidence that those were the very ashes which the Japanese Government turned over to Aiyer and Ramamurthy.

(3) The fact that Aiyer and Murthy received the ashes and asked the I.N.A. cadet to deposit them in the Renkoji Temple seems strange behaviour when many Indians still in Japan who had already risked their lives would not have hesitated to safeguard the ashes of a national hero. There could obviously be no certainty under the circumstances if the ashes were genuine and even if they were if the urn which has been lying in the Renkoji Temple for the last 10 years does in fact contain the ashes of Subhas Chandra Bose. Keeping in view that this matter was brought to the attention of the first Indian Representative to Japan Shri B. Ramabao in 1947 by a written memorandum from the then President of the Indian Association it seems strangely disrespectful that the Government of India should have taken no interest in the subject until this year.

(4) In case the Government of India now decide to accept the ashes as genuine a full statement should be issued showing the evidence by which such a conclusion has been reached and explaining satisfactorily why no action was taken in the matter for almost 10 years. There have been reports that the Government of India are now willing to cover up for the negligence and worse of the Japanese Government over the matter of Subhas Chandra Bose perhaps in order to derive some political advantage from Japan. That would be deeply mortifying if correct.

C. THE I.N.A. TREASURE:

(1) It has been confirmed that Subhas Chandra Bose was carrying two heavy suitcases of which one at least contained treasure only. Is it not unusual then that the contents of both these suitcases could have been packed in two Kerosene oil tins plane after the crash. It is very likely that the Japanese authorities



in Formosa did not send everything to Tokyo.

(2) Even so, the two containers were handed over to Ramamurthy and Aiyer in September 1945 and for six years they completely denied any knowledge of having received any treasure whatsoever. In the meantime both Aiyer and Ramamurthy have prospered materially without any visible means. In 1947 when the memorandum was submitted to Shri B. Rama Rao the reply received by the then President of the Indian Association was that the Government of India could not interest itself in the I.N.A. funds. It was only four years later that Government made any attempt to find out whether there was some I.N.A. treasure involved in the plane crash at Formosa. May the reason not be that only after Aiyer and Ramamurthy had managed to get away with the treasure that they informed the Government of India of their being some property which they ceremoniously handed over in order to cover up their misappropriation of the bulk of such treasure. There is no information that the Government of India has taken any action in order to thoroughly investigate the treasure that was being carried in the ill-fated plane and what happened subsequently to it. Obviously Aiyer and Murthy could have taken out such treasure from Japan only with the connivance of the Japanese authorities and the excuse that conditions in Japan were then very confused is not sufficient exoneration for the negligence of the Japanese authorities in allowing the I.N.A. property to be smuggled out of the country. Government should hold a public enquiry which if it would not get back the treasure would at least determine who the likely culprits were who did away with it.

Finally the general complaint is that the disinterested attitude of the Government of India for almost 10 years is not particularly praiseworthy as it not only helped the guilty parties concerned to escape without blame but also because it postpones the rendering of honour to one of the great leaders who gave his life for the independence of India.

It will be observed that the stand of the Indian



Community is not completely logical but reflects a fair degree of emotion.

*AK*  
(A.K. Dar) *OK*  
26.9.55

Ambassador

(13) Issue (1257/c)

(44) (1268/c)

Seen by C.D.A. Filed.

h  
10/10.

As Series by Ambassador the papers re: the late Sri Subhas Chandra Bose are put up herewith. The P.T.I. news report on the P.M.s latest replies in Parliament is also placed below.

*AK*  
24/10/55

Amb.

Dy. 302/55 (45) (1269-111/c)

Dy. 296/55 (46) (1275-111/c)

81: (45-46) Seen by *h* and *h*. Filed.

h  
31/10.

Mr. Nakagawa, Director of the Asian Affairs Division told me this afternoon that he had been asked by the Foreign Minister to convey to the Indian Embassy that the proposal of the Government of India to conduct an enquiry into the circumstances of the death of the late Shri Subhas Chandra Bose was acceptable to the Government of Japan in the terms in which the proposal was made by the Indian Ambassador to the Foreign Minister.

2. Mr. Nakagawa informed me that if the Ambassador wished to receive the above reply from Mr. Kadowaki



that could be arranged but so far as the Government of Japan was concerned the above consent of the Government of Japan to the idea in principle could now be transmitted by us to the Government of India.

3. Mr. Nakagawa added that the Government of Japan hopes that there would be no departure from the main objective in view and extraneous enquiries and aside researches would not be made.

4. Mr. Nakagawa then asked for our detailed proposals about the method in which the enquiry is proposed to be conducted and whether we would give any documents to the Government of Japan in advance to enable the Japanese side to assemble the facts readily for further cross-examination. Mr. Nakagawa informed me that on their side the Japanese Government is preparing a detailed note containing all relevant information available about the circumstances relating to the death and would be happy to make that document available to us for transmission to India in confidence.

5. Mr. Nakagawa requested finally that the present status of negotiations on the subject should not be revealed in public without prior intimation to the Japanese Government and unless it was absolutely necessary to give publicity. Mr. Nakagawa clarified that of course the fact of enquiry would become public at a slightly later stage if and when any enquiry team comes from India or is set up in Japan.

6. The delay in reply explained by Mr. Nakagawa arose from the Cabinet not having met until this morning.

A.K. Dar

( A.K. Dar )  
8. 11. 55

Ambassador

An appointment with Mr. Nakagawa is being obtained as desired by Ambassador.

In the interim I have again spoken to Mr. Nakagawa about the impracticality of maintaining secrecy on the subject & he has replied that if that is unavoidable it will be quite alright.

Ambassador

A.K. Dar  
16/11/55



Discussed with V.A.  
Kakowaki. He communicated  
to me unqualified acceptance  
of our proposal in terms of  
our B.R.S. with Jura.

He also attended the  
conference May 1st at R  
Draft Telegram to Jura.

*[Signature]*  
12/11/55

*[Signature]*

Issue telegram below.

(47) Issue (p. 78/c) *[Signature]*  
11/11/55

Dy: No. 23/56 (48) (p. 77-80/c)

"Spoken to F.S."

Hd: B.R.S.

filed,

*[Signature]*  
16/11

Dy: No. 50/56 (49) (p. 81-92/c)

"Morning Meeting"

Hd: B.R.S.

1/2

Submitted, please.

*[Signature]*  
4/12

*[Signature]*  
3/12

*[Signature]*

Amib.

(50) Issue (p. 92/c)

Dy: No. 6-76

(51)

(p. 14/c)

Seen by Amib. and F.S. Filed.

*[Signature]*  
22/12



Dy No. 76/56 (S2) (p. 95-102)

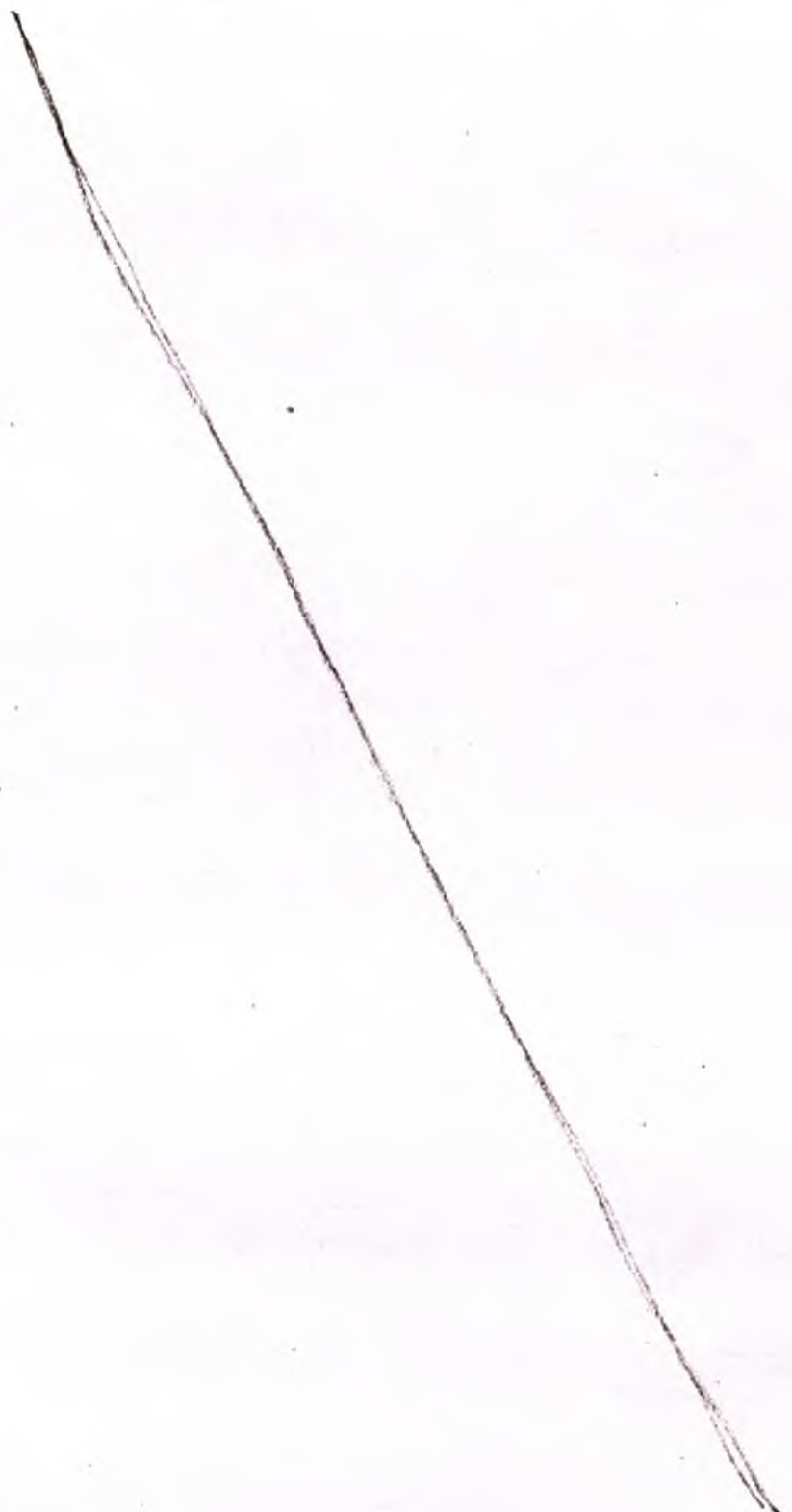
As directed by F.S., a copy of note  
along with a copy of 86.48 forwarded  
to Shm. I.N. Kaul.

$\frac{14}{27/2}$ .

Dy No. 131/56 (S3) (p. 103/c)

See by Amb. and F.S. Filed.

Dy No. 142/56 (S4) (p. 104-106/c).





MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT.

Shri Buresh Chandra Bose and Shri Shah Nawaz Khan saw me this morning. The former gave me the attached letter.

2. I told him that the enquiry had necessarily to be private and not a public one. It was not a judicial enquiry in the normal sense of the word, and no oaths could be given. The matter was complicated because the enquiry will largely take place in a foreign country, namely Japan, and we could not impose any terms on the Japanese Government. We had to proceed with their full cooperation. Our effort should be to get as many facts as possible about Netaji Subhash Bose's last days - his disappearance or death or whatever it was. Apart from the direct evidence which we have thus far received and which may further be obtained, it seems to me almost inconceivable that Netaji should be alive. Over ten years have passed since the aircraft accident. Even if he had escaped then I cannot conceive how he could possibly remain silent during all these years when it was very easy for him to communicate in various ways with India. All presumptions, therefore, are that he died and the real enquiry would be largely about the circumstances, but it was open to the Enquiry Committee to enquire into every fact and circumstances available to them.

3. These are the general terms of reference. It is not necessary to make them more precise. On arrival in Japan, the Committee should immediately get into touch with representatives of the Japanese Government and discuss this matter with them and seek their cooperation. They will, of course, keep in constant touch with our Ambassador. As our Ambassador is in Delhi now, it is desirable that they should meet him before he goes back to Japan. Only two Members of the Committee are in Delhi at present. The third Member, Mr. Maitra, has not arrived yet. He is expected in a day or two.

4. I pointed out to Shri Buresh Bose that Dr. Radha Binod Pal's appointment to this Committee was not suitable because of the part he played in the War Criminals' trial. He is, of course, a very eminent criminal jurist and is well known in Japan and elsewhere. But, in the circumstances, his functioning in this Committee might raise difficult problems and might not be liked by some foreign countries like the USA, which has considerable influence in Japan still. Apart from this, my impression is that Dr. Pal has accepted some kind of work on an International Commission elsewhere.

5. I told Shri Buresh Bose that the question of War Criminals does not arise and we are not going to ask the USA or any other country as to whether Netaji is in the list of their War Criminals. Possibly, their answer would be that they believed he was dead. Anyhow, we do not propose to do anything in the matter. There can be no question whatever of our handing any person, even a non-Indian who seeks refuge in our country, to a foreign power, much less

contd...



an Indian national of repute.

6. I did not say anything specific about Shri Shah Nawaz Khan being a Member of the Committee because he was present at the time. I think the Committee that we have constituted should function without any change.

7. CS might keep in touch with FS in this matter as the latter dealt with this in the earlier stages.

8. I think that our Ambassador in Tokyo, Shri B.R. Sen, should meet Shri Suresh Bose and Shri Shah Nawaz Khan. This should be arranged.

Sd/-

(J. Nehru)  
2.4.1956.

(FS Shri B.R. Sen will leave Delhi on the 4th.  
( Please show him this note and arrange a  
(CS meeting tomorrow. You might be present at  
the discussions.

JS(E)

Sd/- S.Dutt.  
2.4.56.

Shri B.R. Sen may kindly see. We could meet in Shri Shah Nawaz Khan's room at 6 p.m. tomorrow as Mr. Maitra, the 3rd Member will arrive at 5.30 p.m. tomorrow.

Sd/- T.N.Kaul.  
2.4.56.

Shri B.R.Sen  
US(FEA)

I have already fixed 7 p.m. at F.S.'s residence tomorrow. Shah Nawaz's Secy. had rung me up this afternoon.

Sd/- B.R.Sen.  
2.4.56.

US(FEA).

Sd/- R.S.Chavan.

2/4



Dy No. 150/56 (55) (p107/c).

(56) Issue (p108/c)

Dy No. 151/56 (57)

(p109/c)

(58) Issue (p110/c).

Dy No. 152/56 (59)

(p112-114)

See by f.s. Filed.

ku  
20/4.

Dy No. 170/56 (60)

(p115/c) (p116/c)

Dy No. 169/56 (61)

(p116/c)  
-118/c)

Dy No. 188/56 (62)

(p119/c).

(63) Issue (p120/c)

Dy No. 181/56 (64)

(p121/c)

Dy No. 180/56 (65)

(p122/c).

Dy No. 203/56 (66)

(p123/c)

(67) Issue (p124/c)

Dy No. 204/56 (68)

(p125-126/c)

(69) Issue (p127/c)

Dy No. 205/56 (70)

(p128/c)

(71) Issue (p129/c)

Dy No. 206/56 (72)

(p130/c)

(73) Issue (p131/c)

Dy No. 221/56 (74)

Issue (p132/c)

Ambassador may kindly see form. c I & II & f.r.

Atkshu  
27/57

Ans.

*[Signature]*  
28/5

(75) Issue (p133/c)



With refce. to para. c. I & II the Commission find it difficult to return my letter of 25<sup>th</sup> May as various notings have been made on it. Under the circumstances a draft amendment is put up which Ambassador may please see.

*[Signature]*  
28/5

*[Signature]*

28/57

Amb.

(76) Issue (p. 134/c)

Dy: No. 222/56 (77) (p. 135/c)

Dy No. 220/56 (78) (p. 136-139/c)

Submitted, please.

*[Signature]*  
29/5

FS.

(79) Issue (p. 140/c)

(80) Issue (p. 141/c)

(81) Issue (p. 142/c)

Dy: No. 244/56 (82)

Submitted, please.

*[Signature]*  
10/6

*[Signature]*

Ambassador may see for present information. I asked Mr. Hattori for clarification of the last para of his letter and learnt that no final reply has yet been received from the Japanese Embassy at Taipei.

Mr. Hattori stated that their Embassy in Taipei had again reported that besides the previous request for assistance from the Britt Consul at Taipei to get the names and addresses of possible witnesses and location of crematorium records the Britt Consul had also now requested the Japanese Embassy for getting the copies of hospital crematorium records as requested by us. The Japanese Embassy has started both official & informal enquiries and will report to the Gaimusho in due course.

*[Signature]*  
15/6/56

*[Signature]*

15/6

Amb.



Dy: No. 257/56 (83)

(27)

(p. 144/c)

Submitted, please.

Ambassador may please. I am writing to maintain formally.

R. S. S.  
4/11


(84) June, (p. 145/c).

Dy: No. 277/56 (85) (p. 146/c)

(86) June, (p. 147/c)

Dy: No. 291/56 (87) (p. 148/c)

(88) June, (p. 149/c)

(89) June, (p. 150-155/c)

(90) June, (p. 156-158/c)

(91) June, (p. 159/c)

p.u.c. is for information.

R. S. S.  
26/11

Amb.



Dy: No. 316/56 (92) (p. 160/c) - P.u.c. I

Dy: No. 310/56 (93) (p. 161/c) - P.u.c. II

P.u.c. I and P.u.c. II for information, please.

kls  
20/8

f.s. S.



Will F.S. advise about this? Are there any papers?  
Answers to 1 and 3 are comparatively easy and I know them.

Sd/- C.S. Jha  
16. 9. 57

F.S.

The papers dealing with the case are placed below.  
We also have in the Library the report of the Enquiry Committee. There are other files relating to earlier correspondence on the subject, sanctions for the Enquiry Committee and other administrative matters. These have not been put up. It is not possible to give any clear answer to (2). In a letter dated 4th December 1953, Miss. Leilamani Naidu instructing the Ambassador here about the letter to the priest of Renkoji Temple said "He should also be told that, at the proper time, we shall send for the ashes and have them in India." Later the Prime Minister speaking in the Lower House on 29th September said "Government have not approached the Government of Japan or the Management of the Renkoji Temple to bring these ashes to India. Government have felt that in this matter, no steps should be taken without the approval of the family of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose." We have no further information about the Government of India's intentions. Presumably, for reasons of domestic politics, it is not proposed to give publicity to this matter.

Two drafts are put up for approval.

*ggnadh.*  
19. 9. 57

Ambassador

(15) 164 (c)



Dy: no. 21 Ts 157 (96) (-1651c) - puc

Pp: please

22: 4.5.57 / 2.11.57

by 24/11

Papers are submitted, please

fs.

A draft letter to Rev. Kyoei Mochizuki is put up for Ambassador's approval as desired by Mr. J.S. Mehta.

approved.

5. 11. 57

Ambassador

W. A. 3/11/57

(91) 11/11/57 (1651c)



(18.11)  
Dy. No. 397/57 (98) p. 167/c  
-168  
Ep. Please  
10.12.57.

Do we have any ~~papers~~ papers on this subject?

Sd/- Pouchpa Dass  
11.12.57.

I.S.I. have no papers on the subject.

12/11 F.S. may please see

Copy  
12.12.57

Papers Submitted, please

P.A.  
F.S.  
by  
12/12  
F.S.

Issue letter dictated.

pp. 167/c

13. 12. 57

(99) Copy (p. 169/c)

Dy. No. 407/57 (100) (p. 170-171/c)

(101) Copy (p. 172/c)  
-175/c

Dy. No. 408/57 (102) (p. 176/c)

San G. sub. A. ed

by  
12/12

Dy. No. 409/57 (103)

(p. 177/c)



I attended the meeting referred to in the F.R. Actually the invitation was brought by Mrs. Emori who is a philanthropic society lady with a keen interest in India. She has for many years helped Indian students in Japan, even to the extent of giving them financial assistance when they have been temporarily embarrassed owing to exchange regulations etc. When I went to the meeting I discovered that it was sponsored by a number of War Criminals. Among those present were ex-Lt.Genl. Oshima, the last Imperial Japanese Ambassador in Berlin and ex-Lt.Genl. Kawabe who commanded the Imperial Japanese Army in Burma. Also present were ex-Col. Iwakuro and Mr. Takaoka, a Member of the Diet.

2. The speeches were mainly concerned with the late Subhas Chandra Bose who was personally known to most of those present. Ex-Col. Iwakuro said that the time had come to move the ashes from the obscure and inaccessible temple where they are now kept to a national shrine and that the Diet should look into this matter. In reply Mr. Takaoka said that he and his friends were already seized of this position and were proposing to move a bill in the next session for the shifting of the ashes to a monument to be built for the purpose. When this speech had been translated to me I replied that our Prime Minister had himself visited the Renkoji Temple and seen the ashes; he had expressed his pleasure and satisfaction at the reverent manner in which the Priest of the Renkoji Temple was looking after the ashes and in these circumstances I did not think that there was any need for moving them elsewhere. Ex-Lt.Genl. Kawabe then modified his attitude and said that the Renkoji Temple needed to be helped so as to make it more prominent and better known in consequence of the ashes that it



contained. I said that it was a very good idea to give whatever help was possible to the Renkoji Temple but that moving the ashes would raise several problems, inter alia the family of the late Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose would have to be consulted.

3. I understood from the interpreter that the Gaimusho would be approached before a bill was actually tabled in the House of Representatives.

*sgvahl.*  
25. 1. 58

Ambassador

*W.D.*  
22/1/58

*me*  
24.3.58

*W.D.*  
4/2/58  
*fs*

Ambassador would recall my mentioning the F.R. to him. I find that the previous correspondence on the subject took place between the Head of the Mission and the Director of <sup>the</sup> a Division in the Ministry. A draft letter to Shri B.K. Acharya is put up for approval.

*sgvahl.*

18. 8. 58

Ambassador

*W.D.*  
21/8/58

*me*  
21.8.58

(108)

*fs*



pp. please.

(Sd) G.J. Malik  
18.10.

Papers submitted please.

22/10

F.S.

This was discussed with the Ambassador and I went to see Mr. Miyake, Dy. Director of the Asian Affairs Bureau. While mentioning the case to Mr. Miyake I also mentioned to Mr. Miyake that on 24th October another person, a Mr. I. Kagabu had come to the Embassy and told a practically identical story. <sup>Finally</sup> ~~In short~~, I left Mr. Kagabu's written statement as well as the original Japanese record of the conversation of Mr. Takei with Mr. Miyake who said he would inquire into the matter. He mentioned, however, that two of the names given by Mr. Takei were of Koreans and and that the reference to reimbursement to the present holder made him rather suspicious about the whole deal. He will inform me when he gets something from the Police.

S. Malik.

( G.J. Malik )  
28/10/1958

After discussing the matter mentioned above, Mr. Miyake said that he wanted to know when the Govt. of India proposed to move <sup>Shi</sup> Subash Bose's ashes. He said that this was a personal enquiry and the priest had been feeling uncomfortable about the continued presence of these ashes in the temple. It ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup> not the custom in Japan for ashes to be kept continuously in temples. They are normally retained for a short period and then transferred to the family grave or shrine. Moreover the priest who is getting old, feels that he should not leave the ashes to others in Japan.

I gave him the <sup>usual</sup> answers that there had been no <sup>request</sup> reply from either Mr. Bose's family in Austria or his relations in India about the ashes and that we might be embarrassed by having these ashes in India where there is no practice of keeping ashes since, among Hindus, the ashes



are either cast into a river or otherwise scattered. Mr. Miyake said that, in any case, it will be more appropriate for the ashes to be disposed of in India than ~~have them to be~~ retained indefinitely in Japan. There is force in this argument particularly when we are officially taking steps to take away the ashes of Rash Behari Bose and arrangements are being made for their retention in India. Ambassador may wish to bring this matter to the notice of the Govt. as, I think, Mr. Miyake expects an answer from us. The last letter from the Ministry on the file is at sl.no. 96 and is now a year old.

Play 'A'

( G.J. Malik )  
28/10/1958

I think we should report the first of the  
second part of 75<sup>th</sup> with 728<sup>th</sup>, both much  
for their information & make comments if any.  
I shall also make the matter to Foreign Sec  
in Dallas

~~Ambassador~~

Li Th  
25/11/16

F

lesme letter dictat. l.  
1941.

21.11.5.

Dy. NO (108) - F.R. (p. 182 - 183/c)

Since my meeting with Mr. Miyake in October, Mr. Abeyaratne has again been in the Embassy. As I was not in he left a letter in Japanese of which the F.R. is a translation. I saw Mr. Miyake on the 15th at a party and he said he had handed over the case to Mr. Iwama. Accordingly I went to see Mr. Iwama yesterday and gave him the original and the enclosures to the F.R. He was rather discouraging saying that the information we had received was not specific, that it would be difficult for the



(from p.p.p.)

- 35 -

Police to undertake investigations without infringing the human rights provisions of the Constitution, etc. He went so far as to suggest that we should engage a private detective. I pointed out that publicity was precisely what it was the interest of both Governments to avoid and that the police could find things out with much less danger of publicity than a private investigator. I also said that it would be desirable to give some answer to the various parties which had come to the Embassy with information. Mr. Kwana said he would ~~consult~~ consult the Legal Affairs Bureau in the meantime this is for Ambassador's information.

Agulalib.  
17.12.58.

Ambassador

Sen. Harbo

U. 2  
17/12

pp. 6  
18.12.

D. No. 18/59

(107)

V.C. with pt. ref. with p.p.

Std. 21.  
20/1

(111) - Point

(111) - Point

D. No. 129-115/61

(112) - Point

D. No. 137-55/61

(113) - Point

(114) - Point

D. No. 223-55/61

(115) - Point



Dy. No. 243-SS/61

(116)

Dy. No. 244-SS/61

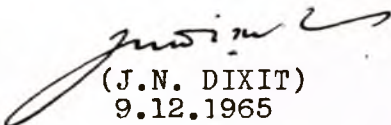
(117)

Ambassador might like to glance through the interesting file about Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, placed below. It concerns a wide range of subjects connected with Netaji, viz.: circumstances and details regarding his death, the treasure which he carried from Bangkok, the behaviour of those of his colleagues who were the last to see him alive, the work of the Netaji Enquiry Commission appointed by the Government of India, in 1956, etc.

[in the I.N.A.]

2. This file is, and would be of historical interest. I feel that we should send it back to the Historical Division of the Ministry and after due scrutiny and weeding out, those portions of file which are of permanent interest, should be passed on to the National Archives.

3. If Ambassador agrees, we will send the file back to India by diplomatic bag.

  
(J.N. DIXIT)  
9.12.1965

Ambassador

These papers are interesting and of considerable historical value. From what I can judge, most of it has been brought to the notice of the Government and their enquiries sent. The main issues involved; eg: of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's death, and the disposal of his ashes; have not yet been settled. We shall therefore want these papers here & they should not be sent to India. They should be properly bound & kept in our archives.

2. It is somewhat strange that the Services



(as far as I can judge) has not yet been shown  
these papers at any stage. Apart from being interested  
in his episode with which our Army is involved,  
I think he should try to trace the various Japanese  
officers mentioned, find out what they are doing  
now, & attempt to cultivate them. True  
some thing could be done with the civilian  
personalities involved. In this way, we could  
keep Nakaji's contacts with Japan alive; and  
make some use of them for our own purposes now.

3

CA should also see for the same

purpose.

~~ES~~

102771  
13.12.65

S.A. & C.A. <sup>T.S.I</sup> should see this  
file before action for bridge  
this is taken.

garrison  
13.12.65

S.A.  
C.A.  
T.S.I

See memo  
dated 16/2/65

See memo  
dated 15.12.65



19  
No. P. 1003-CJK/52  
Government of India  
Ministry of External Affairs.



(1)  
New Delhi 18 March, 1952. *hw 18/3/52*  
*29/3*

Dear Mission,

We enclose for your information a copy of question No. 334, answer and supplementaries in the Parliament of India about the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Yours ever,

Ministry of External Affairs.

The Indian Liaison Mission,  
Tokyo





Question 334.

Shri Kamath: In view of the fact that the House is deeply interested in this matter, may I request the Prime Minister to read not the whole of the resume but at least Habib's version on page 2 and 3?

Mr. Speaker: I do not see why the time of the question hour should be taken by such reading. The resume is already there and non-Members may refer to it.

Mr. Kamath: So that separate questions may be put and answered.

Mr. Speaker: He has got a copy of the statement.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: May I, Sir, read the last two lines? The report is a detailed version of the enquiry. It also contains a certain version given by Japanese officers who met him. (Mr. Ayer). These are details but the final conclusion I would read from the report.

"In conclusion I would repeat that I have not the faintest doubt in my mind that the ashes that are enshrined in the Renkeji temple in Tokyo are Netaji's."

Mr. Kamath: Did Mr. Ayer in May last visit only Tokyo or also Taihoku, Saigon and other places?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have to speak from memory. I do not think that he went to Taiwan or Formosa. I cannot say about any other places either.

Mr. Kamath: The report with me says that at Taihoku after the.....

Mr. Speaker: I do not see the utility of putting these questions. The report is by an officer and it is before the House and all that the hon. Prime Minister is doing is to convey the report to the House. How can he answer questions about the accuracy or otherwise of the report?

Mr. Kamath: Is it not a fact that on several occasions in this House the former Home Minister, Sardar Patel and later Dr. Keskar stated that they had no irrefutable evidence or proof of the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and if so, may I know whether this is taken as the last word on the subject?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: This is the fullest and latest account that we have had. Whether it is the last word or some further information may come later I cannot say but it does seem now that it is a fairly convincing account.

Mr. Kamath: Now that Government is satisfied that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is definitely no more, is there any proposal before Government to erect a suitable memorial to him in the Red Fort?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid I must disallow the question. It is a suggestion for action. Next question.

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Admitted as No. 334 in the Final List.

Q U E S T I O N

\* Shri Kamath:

Will the Prime Minister be please to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri S.A. Ayer, Director of Publicity with the Government of Bombay, recently returned from Tokyo and submitted to Government a report on the death or present whereabouts of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose; and

(b) if so, whether a copy of the report will be laid on the Table of the House; and

(c) if not, whether the House can have a resume of the contents thereof?

A N S W E R (ORAL)

Hon'ble Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:

(a), (b) and (c)

On the 15th of September 1951, Mr. S.A. Ayer called on the Prime Minister and told him that he had paid a brief visit to Japan towards the end of May. The purpose of his visit had been to re-verify the story of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose's air crash near Taihoku (Formosa) on August the 18th, 1945. He also showed the Prime Minister some papers, some photographs and some documents signed by the Japanese people. At the Prime Minister's request, Mr. Ayer sent him a detailed report of his enquiries on the 26th of September. A resume' of the report is placed on the Table of the House.

-.-.-.-.-



# R E S U M E

O F

SHRI S. A. AYER'S REPORT ON AIRCRASH OF NETAJI  
SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE AT TAIHOKU (FORMOSA) ON  
AUGUST 18, 1945.

.....

At 5-15 P.M. on the 17th August, 1945, I and a number of my colleagues saw Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and Col. Habib-ur-Rahman off by a bomber leaving Saigon airport for an unknown destination. The Japanese authorities offered me a seat in a plane leaving Saigon for Japan on 20th August and hinted that I could join Netaji very soon. I reached Saigon airport on the morning of the 20th August, 1945, and there accidentally met Mr. Fukuoka, Chief of the Domei News Agency for the East Asia Regions who told me abruptly that he was sorry for Netaji. I merely presumed that Netaji had been held up in Formosa owing to bad weather. A little later just as I was going to board the plane, Rear Admiral Chuda of the Japanese Navy told me that Netaji was dead. I had no chance to ask him for details because in the next few moments I was aboard the plane.

When we reached Canton airport at 5 p.m. and halted for refuelling, Col. Tada, who was escorting me, took me aside and told me for the first time that Netaji's plane crashed near Taihoku (Formosa) on August 18 and that Netaji was seriously injured and succumbed to his injuries the same night, and that Col. Habib-ur-Rahman, who was not so seriously injured, was alive and lying in a hospital in Taihoku. I asked him to take me to Taihoku so that I could see Netaji's body with my own eyes and also be of some service to Habib. I told him that without positive proof nobody in India would believe the story. Though Col. Tada promised to help me, I was not taken to Taihoku.

We reached Tokyo on the 22nd August, 1945 and the Japanese, in consultation with me, drafted a brief communique announcing the death of Netaji. On September 7th, Sri Rama  
/Murthy,



Murthy, ex-Chairman, Indian Independence League in Japan and I contacted the Japanese Military authorities who told us that the ashes of Netaji brought by Habib from Formosa the previous day would be handed to us for safe custody and that Habib himself would be joining us sometime that evening. I received the ashes at the hands of a senior Japanese military officer at the main entrance to the Imperial Japanese Military Headquarters, and took them to the house of Sri Murthy. The same night Habib arrived in the house of Sri Ananda Mohan Sahay where I was staying. I give below Habib's version of what happened to Netaji after I saw him off at the Saigon airport on the evening of August 17th 1945.

Habib's version begins: "A couple of hours after we took off from Saigon aerodrome on 17th August, we landed at Touraine (Indo-China) and halted there for the night. Early next morning we again took off and landed at the Taihoku airport at about 2 p.m. on the 18th. We took off from there at 2.35 p.m. We had just cleared the runway and gained two or three hundred feet height when there was a sudden deafening noise. I thought it was an enemy fighter. I learnt later that one of the propellers of the port engine had broken. The plane was already wobbling and in spite of the best efforts of the pilot, the plane crashed on its nose and everything went black for a while. When I recovered consciousness a few seconds after, I realised that all the luggage had crashed on top of me and a fire had started in front of me. So, exit by the rear was blocked by the packages and exit by the front was possible only through the fire. Netaji was injured in the head but had struggled to his feet and was about to move in my direction to get away from the fire. As there was no passage I said to him "Aage se nikliye, Netaji". With both his hands he fought his way through the fire and stood outside about ten or fifteen feet away. When the plane crashed, he got a splash of petrol all

/over



over his cotton khaki and it caught fire when he struggled through the nose of the plane. So he stood there with his clothes burning and making desperate efforts to unbuckle the belts of his bushcoat and round his waist. I dashed up to him and tried to help him remove the belts. Then I noticed that his face was battered by iron and burnt by fire. A few minutes later he collapsed and lay on the ground. I was also exhausted and lay down by his side. The next thing I know I was lying on a hospital bed next to Netaji. I learnt later that within fifteen minutes of the crash, military ambulance had rushed us to hospital in Taihoku city. Netaji lost consciousness almost immediately after reaching the hospital. He regained it soon after. He never complained about the writhing pain that he must have been suffering. Except for brief spells he was conscious throughout. A moment before his end came he said to me "My end is coming very soon. I have fought all my life for my country's freedom. I am dying for my country's freedom. Go and tell my countrymen to continue the fight for India's freedom. India will be free before long." The Japanese made superhuman efforts to save Netaji. But it was all in vain. Six hours after he was brought into the hospital i.e., at 9 p.m. on 18th August, 1945, Netaji's end came peacefully.

"When I felt well enough to talk to them I told the Japanese to arrange to send Netaji's body by plane to Singapore or to Tokyo. They promised they would. They then told me that it was impossible to carry Netaji's remains out of Taihoku and cremation had to be arranged as early as possible. They asked my consent for it. I had no other alternative but to agree. The funeral service with full military honours was held in the shrine attached to the hospital and the cremation took place on the 20th. They placed Netaji's ashes in an urn and kept it in the shrine. Three weeks later I was told that a

/single



A single ambulance plane was leaving Taihoku and I could get a seat. I took charge of Netaji's ashes and flew by that plane and reached Tokyo on the 6th September 1945. I was taken straight to one of the suburbs for the sake of secrecy and it was only two days later that the Japanese took first the ashes and then me into Tokyo city." Habib's version ends.

On ~~September 14~~, we took the ashes to the Renkoji temple in Tokyo where we held a funeral service conducted by the priest of the temple and left the ashes in his safe custody.

I and Habib were flown to Delhi under military escort in an American plane and reached Delhi on November 22, 1945

I paid a brief visit to Japan towards the end of May, 1951. I was in Tokyo from May 24 to June 10. During my stay there I tried to meet as many Japanese nationals as I could, with a view to checking up the truth of the air-crash. First I went to the temple to make sure that the ashes were there as I left them six years ago. The same priest was still there.

The first Japanese I saw after meeting the priest was Mr. Fukuoka whom I had last seen at Saigon airport on the morning of August 20th 1945. I recalled to his mind our conversation that morning and asked him what exactly he knew at that moment, six years ago. He told me that he knew from certain messages that Netaji's plane had crashed in Taihoku and that Netaji had been seriously injured but that he was not aware then that Netaji had succumbed to his injuries. He heard about Netaji's death only some time after my plane took off. He was convinced of the truth of this story because it was corroborated by different Japanese Military officers stationed at that time in Saigon.

I also met Col. Tada, the officer who accompanied me from Saigon to Tokyo in August 1945, and asked him why he failed to take me to Taihoku in spite of his promise to do so. He explained that it was past 10 p.m. when our plane reached Taihoku and it was not considered safe to proceed to Taihoku at that  
/hour



hour, as the aerodrome there was surrounded by hillocks. They did not wish to touch Taihoku the next day because August 21 was the last day given by the Allies for the Japanese to ground all their planes in Japan and elsewhere. If Netaji had been alive at that time in Taihoku they might have taken the risk of flying to Taihoku. For the rest, he repeated his story of six years before in all essential details and told me it was no use anybody doubting the truth of the plane crash. To provide me with further authentic proof of the tragic event, he mentioned the names of two Japanese officers, Col. Nonogaki of the Japanese Air Force, and Captain Arai of the Japanese Army, as the only two Japanese survivors of the air crash who could be contacted in Tokyo itself. I met Col. Nonogaki for the first time in Tokyo, on the evening of June 5, 1951. He gave me a graphic description of the air crash. In broadline he confirmed Habib's version of six years ago. Through Col. Nonogaki's good offices I saw Captain Arai who gave me a brief eye-witness account of the crash and confirmed Netaji's death in the hospital at 9 p.m. on August 18, 1945.

I must here mention another very important fact in this connection. When I was in Delhi in April 1951, I met Mr. Harin Shah, special representative of the 'Bharat' of Bombay. He had been to Formosa in 1948 on tour. He told me in detail about his inquiries which convinced him that the crash did take place, that Netaji died in Taihoku and his body was cremated. He showed me the photographs he had taken of the Chief of the Japanese Army Hospital where Netaji was treated, the surgeon who actually treated Netaji, the nurses who attended on him, the chief of the medical faculty who sent blood for transfusion to Netaji and the students who gave the blood for transfusion.

In conclusion I would repeat that I have not the faintest doubt in my mind that the ashes that are enshrined in the Renkoji temple in Tokyo are Netaji's.

----



MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,  
NEW DELHI,the 16<sup>th</sup> October, 1952.

My dear Rauf,

Will you please refer to the correspondence resting with Chettur's d.o. letter No. F.26(14)/48, dated the 20th October 1951, about the INA properties taken over by our Mission in Tokyo from Ram Murthy ?

2. The Prime Minister wishes to know whether the treasure or its equivalent in money can now be brought over to India. As our Treaty of Peace with Japan has come into force, this should be a comparatively easy matter.

3. We would be grateful if you would kindly make the necessary inquiries and cable your reply.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Leilamani Naidu)

M.A. Rauf, Esq.,  
Ambassador of India,  
Tokyo,  
Japan.

*Handwritten notes:*  
M.A. 24/10  
75  
Diamond in 75



FILE COPY

OUTGOING

3673  
2 OCT 1952

ISSUED

(3)

C.S. No. 131

O.T.P.

Telegram ~~TOP SECRET.~~  
From ~~Indembassy Tokyo.~~  
To Foreign New Delhi.

DTO October 271500

.....

No. 131-G. Top Secret. RAUF to LEILAMANI NAIDU.  
Reference your Top Secret D.O. No. F.25(6)/NGO-52,  
dated 16th October.

Propose to send the stuff in our custody with  
DAMLE, Joint Secretary, Agriculture Ministry, who is  
returning to India on 7th November. Reference to  
Japanese Government NOT considered necessary and may  
involve delay. Japanese Government has so far evinced  
NO interest in the matter.

---

Amb. and FS

*ht.*  
27-10-52



FILE COPY

INCOMING

(4)

C.S. No. 157

O.T.P.

Telegram ~~TOP SECRET.~~  
From Foreign New Delhi.  
To Indembassy Tokyo.



DTO October 301530  
DTR October 302230

IMMEDIATE

15-3

No. 27621. Top Secret. For RAUF. Your  
Top Secret telegram No. 131-G of October 27th.  
Please send authenticated list along with the stuff  
through DANLE.

Amb and FS

30-10-52



**FILE COPY**

**OUTGOING**

12

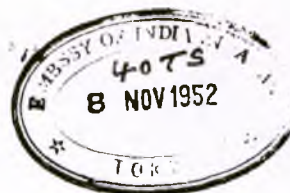
ISSUED

(5)

C.S. No. 134

O.T.P.

Telegram ~~TOP SECRET.~~  
From Indembassy Tokyo.  
To Foreign New Delhi.



DTO November 081230

MOST IMMEDIATE

5-4

No. 134-G. Top Secret. From RAUF. Your  
Top Secret telegram No. 27621 of 30th October.  
DAMLE bringing stuff and copy of list by Pan American  
Airways flight No. 3 leaving 9th reaching Delhi 10th  
evening. Kindly instruct Customs authorities for  
Customs exemption.

---

Amb. and FS

ht

8-11-52



FILE COPY

OUTGOING

13

ISSUED

(6)

C.S. No. 136

O.T.P.

Telegram ~~TOP SECRET.~~

From Indembassy Tokyo.

To Foreign New Delhi.



DTO November 081515

MOST IMMEDIATE

No. 136-G. Top Secret. Continuation my Top Secret telegram No. 134-G of today's date. If necessary please insure stuff worth Rs. 90,000 (repeat 90,000) carried in steel attache case weighing approximately 35 (repeat 35) pounds, as insurance NOT possible this end.

---

Amb. and FS

*ht*  
8-11-52



FILE COPY

OUTGOING

ISSUED

(7)

C.S. No. 137

O.T.P.

Telegram ~~TOP SECRET.~~  
From Indembassy Tokyo.  
To Foreign New Delhi.



DTG November 101000

MOST IMMEDIATE

No. 137-G. Top Secret. Continuation our  
telegram No. 136-G November 8th. DAMLE arriving  
Delhi Pan American Airways flight No. 3 Tuesday 0005 hours.

---

Amb. and FS

*ht*  
10-11-52



(8)

Received from the Embassy of India in  
Japan, Tokyo, (through hand of Sri H.S. Nair)  
one suit-case containing a sealed bag (weight approxi-  
mately 32 lb) for delivery to the Ministry of  
External Affairs, New Delhi.

Haneda Airport,  
Tokyo, Dated the  
9th November, 1952.

K. S. Nair



FILE COPY

INCOMING

16

(7)

C.S. No. 165

O.T.P.

Telegram ~~TOP SECRET.~~  
From Foreign New Delhi.  
To Indembassy Tokyo.



DTO November 12 NIL  
DTR November 130945

.....

5-7 No. 27627. Top Secret. For RAUF. Your  
Telegram No. 137 November 10th. Goods arrived  
November 12th.

---

Amb. and FS

lit.  
13-11-52



44-TS/52  
By Diplomatic Bag  
D.O. No. F.5(1)NGO-I

TOP SECRET

As Bag.

14/11/52

14th November 1952

(10)

Dear Miss Naidu,

Will you please refer to correspondence ending with your Top Secret telegram No. 27627 of the 12th November regarding I.N.A. properties?

2. As you must have noticed, a copy of the list of the treasure was enclosed in the bag carried by Damle. In this connection, please refer to Chettur's Top Secret D.O. letter No. F.26(14)/48, dated the 20th October 1951, to Dutt, wherein also a copy of the list was enclosed.

3. As we had reported to you in the letter quoted above, Mr. Murty had also given us Yen 20,000 in cash. I presume you would now want us to credit this amount to our account. If so, please indicate the Head of Account.

Yours sincerely,

sd/- dc  
(M.A. Rauf)

Miss Leilamani Naidu,  
Deputy Secretary,  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
New Delhi



MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,  
NEW DELHIthe 15<sup>th</sup> November, 1952.

(11)

My dear Ambassador,

Will you please refer to our telegram  
No.27627 of the 12th November ?

2. Damle's arrival was delayed and we  
therefore received the case of valuables  
only on the 12th. We shall keep them in  
safe custody after weighing the packages  
until it is decided what is to be done with  
them.

3. I would incidentally draw your attention  
to our telegram No.27621 of the 30th October,  
in which you were asked to send an authenticated  
list along with the goods. The list in the  
case bore no signature and is therefore of  
little use for purposes of check.

Yours sincerely,

H. Dayal

(H. Dayal)

Dr. M.A. Rauf,  
Ambassador of India,  
Tokyo (Japan)



D.O.No. F.25/1/1110.

~~TOP SECRET~~  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
NEW DELHI.

20th November, 1952.



(12)

Subject: I.N.A. PROPERTIES

My dear Rauf,

Will you please refer to your — 3-10  
Top Secret letter D.O.No.F.5(1)N.G.0-1 of the  
14th November, on the above subject? The gold  
sent through Mr.Damle has been safely received.  
The question of its final disposal is still  
under consideration. The Prime Minister desires  
that the Yen 20,000/- which Mr.Murthy handed  
over in cash to your Embassy as part of the  
I.N.A. properties be kept by you, in a safe,  
until further instructions. The money is not  
to be credited to the Embassy account.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*[Signature]*

*mm*  
*29/11*  
#  
Letter in original address to Mr. Murthy by Mr. H. Balwanth Mr. J. (Leilamani Naidu)  
and for 20,000 (Twenty Thousand) M.A. Rauf, Esq.,  
handed over to Mr. Singh. Ambassador of India in Japan,  
Tokyo.

*12/2*  
Receipt Yen 20,000, (Twenty Thousand) and the letters in question,  
for safekeeping. *Raun Singh 12.2.53.*





(13)

5th December, 1952.

My dear *Harish*

Please refer to your Top Secret D.O. letter No.F.25(4)NGO, dated the 15th November, 1952, which has crossed my D.O. letter No.F.5(1)NGO-I, dated the 14th November to Miss Naidu.

2. It was explained in my letter mentioned above that a copy of the list was enclosed in Chettur's D.O. letter No.F.26(14)/48 dated the 20th October to Dutt. In view of this, I did not think it proper to reopen the packages which were sealed at the time the weighment was made and delivery taken from Murthy, so as to prepare another list. The list sent with Chettur's letter may, therefore, be utilised for the purposes of check. Another copy of the list was sent to you only for reference.

With kind regards,

Yours *Sincerely,**sd/-*

H. Dayal, Esq., ~~I.C.S.~~,  
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India,  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
NEW DELHI.

(M.A. RAUF)

*o/c*  
*Issued by Dip'gry*  
*on 8/12/52.*

(14)

21  
WS  
5/12

D1924/52

No.D.5433-CJK/52.  
Government of India,  
Ministry of External Affairs,

New Delhi, the 24<sup>th</sup> November, 1952.

To



Rev. M. Dharmeswar,  
Nippenzan Myohoji,  
Hanaokayama,  
Kumamoto, Japan.

Sir,

p 22/c

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 6th November 1952, addressed to the President of India, regarding the ashes of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose and to say that the ashes are already in the custody of the Indian Embassy in Tokyo.

Yours faithfully,

(V.K. Ahuja)  
Under Secretary.

.....

Copy, together with a copy of the letter replied to forwarded to the Embassy of India, Tokyo, for information.

p 22/c

By ~~your~~ order, etc.,

V. K. Ahuja

Under Secretary.

1/52



To

His Excellency  
The President of India.

Your Excellency,

May I know if India government is willing to  
take any step about the ashes of Sri Subhas Chandra  
Bose now lying at Tokyo? If so please inform me so  
that I may move for them properly here.

I remain,

Your Excellency's etc.,

Sd/-xxxxxxxxxxxx-

Address.

Rev. M. Dharmeswar  
Nipponzan Myohoji  
Hanaokayama  
Kumamoto  
Japan.

✓  
.....

(15)

11th December 1952.

Dear Miss Naidu,

Will you please refer to the Ministry's letter No.D.5433-CJK/52, dated the 24th November, addressed to Rev. M. Dharmeswar, stating that the ashes of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose are in the custody of Indian Embassy in Tokyo?

2. I am afraid there is some misunderstanding as the ashes are still in the Renkoji Temple. Please see in this connection Mr. Chakravarti's D.O. No.25/4/NGO dated the 18th July, 1951, to Mr. Chettur saying that the ashes should remain where they are.

Yours sincerely,

(V.C. TRIVEDI)

Miss Leilamani Naidu,  
Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India,  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
NEW DELHI.

Despatched by Diplomatic  
Bag 12.12.52  
12.12.52





(16)

the 5<sup>th</sup> January, 1953.

Dear Mr. Trivedi,

Will you please refer to your D.O. No.F.5(1)NGO-I, dated the 11th December 1952, to Miss Naidu, regarding the ashes of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose ?

2. Rev. M. Dharmeswar had asked us if India Government were willing to take any steps about the ashes of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose now lying at Tokyo. Our intention was simply to tell him that the Indian Government and our Embassy in Tokyo were aware of the existence of the ashes and had full control over their disposal even though these were kept in the Renkoji temple. In this connection please refer to Mr. Chettur's D.O. No.F.26(14)/48, dated the 1st October 1951, to Mr. Dutt.

3. To avoid any misunderstanding, however, we are writing to Rev. Dharmeswar again to clarify the position.

Yours sincerely,

V.K. Ahuja

(V.K. Ahuja)

V.C. Trivedi, Esq., I.F.S.,  
First Secretary,  
Embassy of India,  
Tokyo,  
JAPAN.



(17)

25

No.D.4067-NGO/52  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
Ministry of External Affairs

New Delhi, the 5<sup>th</sup> January, 1953.

From

Shri V.K. Ahuja,  
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

To

Rev. M. Dharmeswar,  
Nipponzan Myohoji,  
Hanaokayama,  
KUMAMOTO.  
JAPAN.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to this Ministry's letter No.D.5433-CJK/52, dated the 24th November 1952, and to say that the ashes of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose are kept in the Renkoji temple in Tokyo under the custody of the Indian Embassy in Tokyo.

Yours faithfully,

SD/ -

(V.K. Ahuja)  
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

Copy forwarded to the Embassy of India, Tokyo, for information.

By order, etc.,

V. K. Ahuja

(V.K. Ahuja)  
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

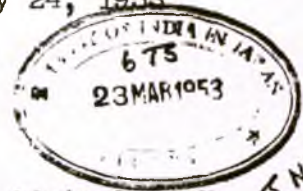




Top Secret

No: F.25/4/NGO  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
New Delhi, January 24, 1953

(18)



*mm*  
My dear Ambassador,

Will you please refer to Miss Naidu's D.O. No. 5 No. 12

F.25/4/NGO, dated the 20th November 1952, regarding the  
I.N.A. properties ?

2. The Prime Minister has now directed that the  
Yen 20,000/- lying with you should be transferred here.  
Can you send the amount to us by bank draft ? If this is  
not possible under the Japanese Government's exchange  
regulations, or for any other reason, we shall have to devise  
other means of transferring the money. One way would be for  
you to credit the amount in your official accounts and for  
a corresponding payment in rupees to be made here. But this  
should not be done unless you get clear instructions from  
the Ministry, indicating the head to which the money should  
be credited in your accounts.

*ms mierz*  
*H. Dayal*

(H. Dayal)

Dr. M.A. Rauf,  
Ambassador of India,  
Tokyo (Japan)



D.O. No.F.25/4/NGO

~~TOP SECRET~~

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
NEW DELHI.

the 17<sup>th</sup> March, 1953.

MM  
24/3

(19)



Subject: I.N.A. Treasure.

My dear Ambassador,

Will you please refer to my D.O. letter No.F.25/4/NGO, dated the 24th January 1953, regarding the transfer of Yen 20,000 now held by the Embassy ?

2. We shall be grateful for an early reply.

Yours sincerely,  
H. Dayal

(H. Dayal)

Dr. M.A. Rauf,  
Ambassador of India,  
TOKYO (JAPAN)



(20)

24th March, 1953.

~~TOP SECRET~~  
(BY DIPLOMATIC BAG)



My dear Harish,

Will you please refer to your D.O. letters  
No. F.25/4/NGO and No.F.25/4/NGO, of the 24th of  
January and 17th of March, 1953, respectively?

2. We suggest that we credit this amount of  
20,000 Yens in our official accounts and a  
corresponding payment in Rupees may be made in  
Delhi. The exact amount in Rupee equivalent would  
be Rs.265-11-0. Please let me know the head under  
which this money should be credited in our accounts.

Yours sincerely,

*mm*  
(M.A. RAUF)

Shri H. Dayal, I.C.S.,  
Joint Secretary to the Government of India,  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
NEW DELHI.

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,  
NEW DELHI,

सत्यमेव जयते

(21)

The 5<sup>th</sup> May 1953

My dear Ambassador,

Will you please refer to your D.O. letter No.F.5(1)NGO-I, dated the 24th March 1953 to Shri H. Dayal ? 3.20

2. The amount of 20,000 Yen (Rs 265/11/-) may kindly be credited to Government and entered in your Cash Account under the head "Tokyo-Suspense-Miscellaneous receipts from Indians (Adjustable in India)". The date on which this is done and other necessary particulars may kindly be intimated to us in due course, when steps will be taken here to withdraw the amount in rupees in India.

Yours sincerely,

(Devi Diyal)

Dr. M.A. Rauf,  
Ambassador of India,  
TOKYO (JAPAN)

*Handwritten notes:*  
1. Immediate action please  
2. Please tell me when it is complete.  
3. File is with G.P.H. Dept. with whom letter should be sent.  
4. Copy Reg. (Hd) G.P.H. Dept. and B.P.D. to know of their matter.

AD  
12.5.53



Receipt Vr. No. Y-11

30  
Dated, 12-5-53.

Tokyo - Suspense - Miscellaneous Receipts from  
Indians  
(Adjustable in India)

P.2C5-11-0

Being the amount referred to in  
the Ministry of External Affairs' D.O.  
No.F.25/4/NGO, dated the 5-5-53.

¥ 20,000

3.21  
Yen twenty thousand only.

8/c Sd. ( S. S. )  
Second Secretary.

Copy to Cypher Assistant



~~TOP SECRET~~

31

As with the  
2  
1973

D.O. No. F.5(1)NGO-I

15th May 1953

(22)



My dear *Shri. Dyal,*

S. No. 21

Will you please refer to your demi-official letter  
No. F.25/4/NGO of the 5th May 1953?

2. The 20,000 Yen (Rs 265/11/-) in question has been  
credited to Government and entered in our Cash Account under  
the head "Tokyo-Suspense-Miscellaneous receipts from Indians  
(Adjustable in India)".

p. 30/2

Yours *M.A. Rauf*  
34-M.A. RAUF  
(M.A. Rauf)

de

Shri. Devi Dyal,  
Deputy Secretary,  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
New Delhi



2/4/53  
Dear Sir:

I am thankful for your efforts towards the improvement of friendly relation between India and Japan.

I understood from the Mainichi Shimbun several days ago that Mr. Debnat Das, former general manager of India Independence League had requested the Government of India to start investigation into the death of Sath Chandra Bose.

In that connection, I shall tell you as far as I know. Formerly I was a soldier belonging to Japanese army flying corps, travelling to Thailand, Burma, India (Imphal, Chittagon), Malaya, Sumatra, and Java etc. I met Chandra Bose several times at Singapore Airport. Especially I have a vivid recollection of Chandra Bose and Japanese Premier Tojo reviewing the newly organized Indian troops in front of the bronze statue of the late Ruffls of Britain (the statue had been removed then). Tojo and Bose had flown there by an aeroplane Sego. Having been a duty non-commissioned officer, I translated the code of their flying to Singapore. After coming back to Japan on transfer to Gifu Air Base, I met Bose in front of the General Staff Office Building, where we saluted each other, exchanging several words, since we had known by sight each other.

Later when the War was terminated Mr. Kohno, a staff-officer at the Gifu Air Base took the same plane as Bose at Taihoku Air Field in Formosa. Immediately after the take-off, the heavy bomber crashed to the ground, killing most of the occupants. Bose was, to my great regret, killed by the accident and his ashes were taken to a temple in the suburbs of Tokyo. Since it is what Mr. Kohno told us at the Gifu Air Base after the War, I am sure that there is no mistake in it. He had burnt his face and hands then but miraculously escaped death.

More details of the death of Bose may be available from Mr. Kohno, but I regret that I have lost my note-book in which his address was kept. If you ask the Census Register Bureaus of all Prefectures in Japan stating his career, his address may be obtainable.





I shall be happy if the above information furnished by me, rough as it is, may be of some use for investigating by your Government into the death of Chandra Bose. On the other hand, I am prepared to give further information as far as I know if am requested to. I am now working at the office of an electric railway company and I may be able to call on you taking advantage of my leave, if I am wanted by you.

Yours sincerely,

April 4, 1953.

To: His Excellency Mr. M.A. Rauf,  
Ambassador of India in Japan.

Sd/-

(YOSHIE NAKAMURA)  
3051, Kawatebatake, Yatsurugi-  
mura, Toba-gun, Gifu Prefecture.



No. /

拝啓

日一日毎に暖かい陽気に  
なりまゐる

大使様には日夜我が日本と  
友好に親交を絶えず御  
盡力と下

され私は深く感謝致し  
なりまゐる 衷心より礼申

と上げまゐる

おと平達でありまゐる  
先日の毎日新聞に  
終戦（昭和二十年八月）時  
に貴国イートン士故スバス、  
ホース代（紙）事故に依る  
死で実情調査と行ふ旨

ありまゐる 前東アビアイ  
ント獨立連盟事務  
局長デブナツト、カス代  
が貴国の政府に調査と  
する様要請

しと記すでありまゐる  
それについて私知る  
所を知らせます

私は元陸軍航空隊  
長官の一人でありまゐる  
南方各地は

昭和二十年四月六日

1

4/9  
S. Adachi





か南旅行したる別名を用いたが、更にチャンドラ・ボース  
代うそばに、より一と東條元大將は参謀本部の孤堂  
本部長より分三孤堂軍司令官に對し、半枝玉報（陰年  
暗子も報半、最高の子報す）親展を以て、南旅行し  
別名秘匿名を以て南方戦線と視察する旨打電し  
来るなりありと、参謀本部から暗子は私（當時下参）  
か翻訳し、一夜間、私は當直であり、  
飛行機は別名セリ、機と稱し、チャンドラ・ボース代も共  
同乗して飛来し、一とあり、  
これに南方より最後で翌年、私は相互命令課と云つて日本に  
歸り、岐阜飛行集団司令官に参謀部に着任し、  
そして東京海軍大学で参謀本部の孤堂本部長の軍命

昭和  
8年  
4月  
4日

No. 4

昭和 28 年 4 月 4 日

に帰る出張より一時参謀本部に前へて又お目  
 かりヤンドラホリス氏も顔に寛ある為互に敬祝  
 三、四、五程ありさつ交りまゝこれか私として最後でした  
 少く横道に入りまゝか私と一諸に岐阜飛行集団司令  
 部よりまゝ河野参謀が後に軽任され終戦時  
 トウ、ホリス氏と共に同じ飛行機に塔東へよりまゝ  
 飛行機は九七式三機で重爆撃機で井口北飛行  
 場高松直後失速しアツと云ふ内りり墜落し大半死  
 一と云ふ残り河野参謀は私達に話つてよりまゝ  
 河野参謀は岐阜飛行集団司令部(終戦時は五五飛行集団と  
 稱しありまゝ)に来て語らるゝから前達いありまゝ  
 同氏も顔面火傷、手火傷は裂傷と同じよりまゝ



平のから台北飛行場の事故の詳細は生残して  
 河野元秀謀に尋ねる一書明かに伝へると思ふ  
 残念の事に私は河野氏の経歴をメモしたノートと  
 終戦時紛失し、今更に取り戻し、経歴の事  
 其の後度々知人とよく面談し、経歴の事  
 一、東京又は関東地方の人で、そのわづかに  
 記憶し、今更に取り戻し、経歴の事  
 各戸を附し、各部道、奈良、戸籍課に尋ねれば大  
 わかると確信し、今更に取り戻し、経歴の事

昭和  
28年  
4月  
4日

冬ノと附一各郡道存果々戸籍課に尋ねれば大い  
わかると確信し乍ら昨午七月一日付、日本全國一斉





No. 7

追記

和は戦後五銖会社率兩場事務并に勤務  
とありありと休暇ありありと  
送書大使館迄よ年出まかあり  
と考へるなり小川は行つても良

岐阜県羽島郡八剣村川手畑三三三  
中村義彦

在米東京駐在  
イェト国大使館  
大使M. A. ラウソフ様

昭和28年 4月 4日

し

*The Indian Association of Japan*

843

TOKYO CENTRAL P. O. BOX ~~843~~

REF :

(24)

Tokyo, October 21, 1953



My dear Doctor Sahib,

Not on file

You will please recall your kind attention to the Association's letter of June 23, 1953, in which I, among other things, requested for a grant from the recovered treasure of Netaji to aid the students' cause here.

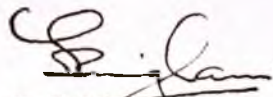
Then at one time I ventured to ask you if our hope of getting the kind of aid from New Delhi would be realized. You said the chance of getting any aid from this direction seemed impossible.

I reported my conversation with you along these lines to the Executive Committee of the Association. The Committee has now directed me to ~~represent you~~ have the talk confirmed by you for the Association's records. Also your confirmation will serve as an acknowledgement of receipt by you of our letter of June 23, which remains unacknowledged so far.

With assurances of my highest regards,

for The Indian Association of Japan

His Excellency  
Dr. M. A. Rauf,  
Ambassador of India,  
Tokyo

  
L.R. Meghani  
Secretary.



(25)

22nd October 1953

S.No. 24

Dear Miglaniji,

Thank you for your letter of the 21st October 1953.

2. I am afraid there has been a certain amount of misunderstanding on this matter which I should like to clear up. The whole question of Netaji's "treasure" has been one in which I have tried not to interfere or express any opinion. There has been so much emotional reaction over this matter that whatever anyone says is liable to be misunderstood. The question of investigation of such treasures and ultimate disposal of them cannot be decided by me.

3. I am hoping to visit India early next year when I intend to speak to the authorities there about it. At present, it is not possible for me to go into any details or discussion.

4. I regret that I cannot remember any formal discussion with you on this subject except, perhaps, a very casual reference in a talk one night at the airport. But we talked about so many things that I cannot now recall it completely. However, if you understood me to say that getting any aid from India was impossible, then, I must correct that impression. As I have indicated, it is not possible to commit myself in ~~anyway~~ in this matter one way or another.

Kind regards,

Yours truly,

*sd/-*  
(M.A. Rauf)

Shri. L.R. Miglani,  
Indo-American Trading Co.,  
Room No. 436, Hotel Tokyo Building,  
Marunouchi, Tokyo

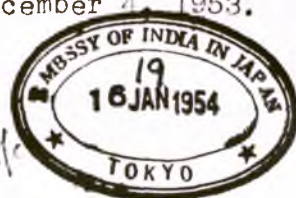


MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
NEW DELHI

D.O.No. D5219-1160/53

December 4, 1953.

(26)



My dear Rauf,

I enclose a copy of a letter addressed to the Prime Minister by the Priest of Renkoji, a Buddhist temple in Tokyo where the ashes of the late Shri Subhas Chandra Bose are enshrined. The Prime Minister desires that the priest be informed of the receipt of his letter and, on behalf of the Government of India, thanked for his guarding the ashes of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose. He should also be told that, at the proper time, we shall send for the ashes and have them in India. But, for the present, we should like him to keep them under his safe custody and look after them.

In the priest's letter, some reference is made to his not receiving any help privately or officially. The Prime Minister would therefore like you to help him in any way you think proper, including financially in so far as any money might be required for this purpose.

Yours sincerely,

(Leilamani Naidu)

Dr. M.A. Rauf,  
Ambassador of India,  
TOKYO.



His Excellency,  
Dr. Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru,  
The Prime Minister of India,  
New Delhi, India.

Kyoei Mochizuki  
130, 2-chome, Koenji,  
Suginami-ku, Tokyo,  
Japan.  
November 25, 1953.

Dear Sir,

I am the priest of Renkoji, Buddhist temple in the suburbs of Tokyo City. I have the honour to send this letter to you, guided by the soul of the late Sath Chandra Bose ji. I have been keeping the ashes of Netaji safely, and praying for the repose of his soul since September 18 in 1945. Eight years have already passed since that time. Japan was under Occupation eight years ago, during which Japanese people were living their stormy life in social confusion. Therefore, apprehensive of consequences, none would accept Netaji's ashes to keep it safely.

I, a stranger to the late Netaji, was asked to keep the ashes by people who were strangers to me including Indians of whom I have never heard since that time. I thought anyone's soul should be warmly worshipped under whatever circumstances. According to such belief as a religionist who serve the spiritual world, I have secretly been guarding Netaji's ashes at the risk of my life. I have been so watchful that even small noises at midnight startle me.

In June, 1951, Ex-Indian Ambassador to Japan, His Excellency, K.K. Chettur, invited me to his official residence. And I was officially asked to keep the ashes by him, as the representative of the Indian Government. The witness was Mr. Tamura, Chief of the Ceremony Section of the Foreign Office of Japan. So my responsibility and duties for keeping the ashes have become more important.

Frankly speaking, I must inform you that, in spite of many inconveniences and trouble I underwent in keeping the ashes, I have never received any help privately and officially. But I believe I can keep up Netaji's soul perfectly by recognizing the importance of duties assigned me and with my strong belief as a religionist.

Now Japan is not under Occupation. The peaceful relations between Japan and India have been reestablished. So, it is meaningless and pity for the late Netaji that his ashes should be kept in a temple of a foreign country, lonely and secretly, after all his vain efforts to bring about the independence of India and happiness of Asia. I think now is the time when such a significant plan as vivifies the historical achievements and sacred spirit of Netaji eternally for both Asia and mankind should be adopted.

During the latest equinox week, I dreamed a strange dream of Netaji two nights on end. The dream was enough to make me lose the peace of my mind as a religionist.

Such is the background of my taking the liberty of expressing my personal view in this letter, which I write as a religionist and a priest who is charged with such an important responsibility by the Indian Government.

p.t.o.

I should be much obliged if you would kindly understand me, and send me, directly if possible, any suggestions you may have as to the disposal of the late Netaji's ashes.

Sincerely yours,

sd/-

Kyoei Mochizuki  
Priest of Renkoji-Temple.

True copy

*Cow*  
4.12.53.



(27)

16th January, 1954.

My dear Sir,

Will you please refer to your D.O. letter No. D.5219-NGO/53, dated the 4th December, 1953, to the Ambassador, which contained certain instructions about Subhas Babu's ashes?

2. In the absence of the Ambassador, I opened your letter and, recently, visited Mochizuki-San at the Renkoji temple. I was accompanied by a colleague, Shri. M.S. Nair, Registrar in our General Section, who speaks Japanese fluently.

3. We thanked the priest, on behalf of the Government of India, for the care he has bestowed on these ashes; and we told him that, at a proper time, they would be sent to India. Should he require financial assistance, we would be happy to provide it; but we hoped for his agreement to continue as the guardian of the ashes for some time.

4. Though repeatedly pressed to accept financial assistance, the priest made it very clear that he had kept the ashes, voluntarily, because of his high regard for Subhas Babu, which, in itself, made it impossible for him to accept any money.

5. He then told us in a round-about-way that the guardianship of these ashes was a source of worry to him; that some of the few-score Indians who have visited the temple and seen the ashes have not behaved with due respect towards them and that he sought to have it stated officially, and publicly, by this Embassy, that the ashes were in his keeping. Finally, could we arrange to provide a receptacle, of artistic design, made preferably in India, in which the ashes would be kept? This receptacle would be on a shelf, in the temple, between two lighted candles; and visitors could make their obeisance before it. Of course, whether Buddhists (Mochizuki-San is a member of the Nichiren sect) or Shintoists, the Japanese venerate, greatly, the ashes of the dead.

6. As you know, many of our fellow-citizens living in Japan, as well as some of those at home, remain convinced either that these ashes are not those of Subhas Babu or that he is still alive. Such evidence as we have, on the relevant file, indicates that he is dead and it is likely, though not

(doubtful)

Duty Secretary  
Ministry of External Affairs  
New Delhi

absolutely certain, that these ashes are his.

7. Any official statement by this Embassy of the type required by the priest would raise a storm of protest among some of our more obstinate fellow-citizens here.

8. The priest agreed to continue to look after the ashes and we were able to dissuade him from insisting on public acknowledgment which, we implied, would, of course, be given when the ashes were, finally, taken to India.

9. The ashes are, at present, kept in a cupboard in the temple and, when visitors arrive, they are taken out and placed between two candles - below a small photograph of Subhas Babu. They are kept in a small box about 9" X 6", which seems to be either tin or wood, and are covered by a white and somewhat transparent cloth which is almost gauze. This manner of viewing them is rather undignified. I would be grateful to have early instructions about the priest's request for the provision of a suitable receptacle. The points for decision are, firstly, whether we should comply with this request and, secondly, whether the receptacle should be made in India or obtained in Japan. Should it be decided to make one in India, I will consult the priest again and provide details about the sort of receptacle he wishes to have.

10. You may be interested to hear that the priest told me that about one hundred persons, including Indians and Japanese, had visited him and been shown the ashes. Certain Americans had also come, to use his own words, to "worship" the ashes. It was sad to hear that the conduct of some of our own people had been lacking in propriety.

11. The Renkoji temple is fairly large and is well looked after. I am quite convinced that Mochizuki-San does not require financial assistance to look after the ashes. He is a pleasant man of about 60 and I have little doubt that his genuine regard for Subhas Babu derives from his sincere, though metaphysical and ill-founded, belief, that Japan's Asian venture, if successful, would have been the fulfilment of a noble and humanitarian purpose.

12. I shall be grateful for instructions.

Shrimathi Leilamani Naidu,  
Deputy Secretary,  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
NEW DELHI

*Your sincerely,*  
*Ranbir Singh*  
(Ranbir Singh)





~~Secret~~

(28)

DO No.F.25/4/NGO  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
New Delhi,  
the 15<sup>th</sup> June, 1954



My dear Ambassador,

Kindly refer to Ranbir Singh's d.o.  
No.F.5(1)NGO-I, dated the 16th January, 1954,  
to Leilamani Naidu, regarding his talk with  
the priest of the Renkoji temple about the  
ashes of Shri Subhas Bose?

2. You had a discussion with Miss Naidu  
on this matter when you were last in Delhi  
and you had suggested that no action need  
be taken by us until we heard further from  
you. We should be grateful if you would  
kindly send us your further views as early  
as possible.

Yours sincerely,

(T.N. Kaul).

Dr.M.A. Rauf,  
Ambassador of India,  
Tokyo

23. 6. 54.

~~SECRET~~  
D.O. No. F5(1)NGO-T  
EMBASSY OF INDIA IN JAPAN  
TOKYO

23rd June, 1954.

(29)

My dear Kaul,

se. 28

Please refer to your demi-official letter No. F.25/4/NGO, dated the 15th June, 1954, regarding the ashes of Shri Subhas Bose.

2. Miss Naidu had shown me a letter received from Ranbir Singh in which it was suggested that we should donate a receptacle of appropriate material and quality to enshrine the ashes of the late Netaji. She was most anxious, in view of the opinion of the family and some others, that the Government of India should not be committed to an admission that they acknowledged the ashes to be genuine relics. I, therefore, suggested that I would try to persuade some admirers of Netaji in Rangoon to donate a casket for the purpose. On my way back to Japan, I had only a day and half at Rangoon and, therefore, could not meet a number of people I had intended to approach. However, one gentleman to whom I talked to, was not enthusiastic about the idea.

3. The priest of the Renkoji temple is anxious for a recognition of his own status as the keeper of the ashes. Opinion of Indians here is divided. Any recognition, therefore, would be a source of controversy. It would not so much matter about the Indians locally, but the opinion in Bengal refuses to accept the fact of Netaji's death and, therefore, of the genuineness of the ashes. I would, therefore, suggest that so long as we can, we should try and keep things as they are until opinion in Bengal changes to accept the fact of his death.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/- *MAR* o/c  
(M. A. Rauf)

Shri T.N. Kaul,  
Joint Secretary,  
Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi



(30)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS



✓  
S/173/55  
14.7.55

ppm/m  
AW  
14/7

Cyrl  
14/7

....

To

Indembassy, Tokyo.

Express letter No. D.2905-FEA/55

Dated, New Delhi, the 4<sup>th</sup> July, 1955.

Copy of Starred Question No. 3047 for  
LOK SABHA by Shri S.C.SAMANTA about ashes of  
Shri Subash Candra Bose is enclosed.

Please suggest material for reply.

? Ministry have no information whatsoever.

....

Issue of the above is authorised.

H. N. 18-

UNDER SECRETARY.

Encl:

H/207

QUESTION FOR THE LOK SABHA.

....

Starred D.No.	3047
Notice was <del>ixxxx</del> received on the	18.6.55
Notice of admission to be sent out	
on the	7. 9.55
Ministry to which the day has been	
allotted	EXT. AFFAIRS.
The question will , if admitted, be	
put down for the sitting on the	13.9.55.

....

\*SHRI S.C.SAMANTHA: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that the ashes of Netaje subas Chandra Bose are lying in custody of the preist of Renkoji temple in Tokyo since September, 1945;

(b) if so, whether the Government of India will take charge of those ashes and errect a suitable memorcial in the name of Netaji;

(c) whether any attempt was made in the matter before;

(d) if so, what was the difficulty in the way?

-----



~~SECRET~~

(91)  
EXPRESS LETTER

July 19, 1955.

No. F.5(1)NGO-I

FROM : INDEMBASSY, TOKYO

TO : FOREIGN, NEW DELHI. ATTENTION: Shri A.J. Kidwai, Dy. Secretary.

SUBJECT:- Ashes of Shri Subash Chandra Bose. 81/30/p50-54

Reference your Express Letter No. D.2905-

FEA/55, dated 4th July, 1955, on the above

subject. Your attention in this connection is

1. Letter No. D. 1003-CJK/52, dt. 18.3.52, from M/E.A. invited to marginally noted and connected correspondence. Under the circumstances<sup>w2</sup> have no further comments to offer.
2. Letter No. D. 5433-CJK/52, dt. 24.11.52, from Min. of E.A.
3. D.O. letter No. D. 4067-NGO/52, dt. 5.1.53, from Min. of E.A., New Delhi.
4. D.O. letter No. D.5219-NGO/53, dt. 4.12.53 from Min. of E.A., New Delhi.

-----  
Issue of the above has been authorised.

H.K.G.  
( A.K.Dar )  
First Secretary

(32)

(53)

# OUTGOING

C.S. No.71.

TELEGRAM:  
FROM:  
TO:

O. T. P.  
~~SECRET~~  
EMBASSY, TOKYO.  
FOREIGN, NEW DELHI.



D.T.O. JUL 261540.  
T.T.O. JUL 261545.

IMPORTANT

No.71

**IMPORTANT**

Late SURESH CHANDRA ROSE. Chief Priest of Renkoji Buddhist Temple who has all along had custody of ashes proposes holding for first time formally a memorial service on August eighteen. Temple authorities ask Embassy approval for this and request presence of Ambassador and others at the occasion. Please advise action desired.

{ Ambassador  
FS

**SECRET**

Seen  
km  
26/7



(133)

INCOMING

C.S. 93.

O. T. 1.

**SECRET**



TELEGRAM:

SECRET.

FROM:

FOREIGN, NEW DELHI.

TO:

EMBASSY, TOKYO.

**IMPORTANT**

D.T.O. JUL 281230.

D.T.R. JUL 290930.

IMPORTANT

No. 28434

✓ 8/29  
p49/c

For Ambassador. Your No. 71  
26th July. Kindly telegraph your views and see  
IAUF's D.O. FS(1)HGO(1) 23rd June 1954 to MAUL.

Ambassador

FS

**SECRET**

## OUTGOING

C.S. No.73.

O. T. P.

~~SECRET~~

TELEGRAM:

SECRET.

FROM:

EMBASSY, TOKYO.

TO:

FOREIGN, NEW DELHI.

**IMMEDIATE**

D.T.O. JUL 291630.

D.T.R. JUL 291635.

IMMEDIATE.

No.73

From Ambassador. Your telegram

81 33/  
PS4/c

28434 July twentyeight late SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

My view generally same as RAUF's. Main question is whether Government are in a position publicly to accept fact of death. If they are then there could be no objection to Embassy participating in memorial services here. It will be realised that participation in memorial services here will also involve Government in other actions which must logically follow. Whole issue seems ~~be~~ obviously tied up with repercussions at home and I feel can best be decided at policy level in India. Japanese feelings or those of community here not of much importance.

~~SECRET~~

Issue.

 Aug 2  
 29/11



INCOMING

SECRET



O. T. P.

TELEGRAM:

SECRET.

FROM:

FOREIGN, NEW DELHI.

TO:

EMBASSY, TOKYO.

IMMEDIATE

IMMEDIATE.

D.T.O. JUL 301300.

D.T.R. JUL 310830.

No. 28436

Your telegram No. 73 29th July.

We think our Embassy should participate in memorial services for SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE. Prime Minister stated in Parliament two years ago that in circumstances we had to accept fact of death. Therefore, there is no difficulty in our taking up this position publicly.

Ambassador

FS

SECRET

8/34  
p. 55

(36)



S. 204/55  
BY BAG 6.8.55

No.D.3311-FEA/55.  
Government of India,  
Ministry of External Affairs.

Dated, New Delhi, 25 July, 55.

Subject:- Starred Question for the Lok Sabha,  
No.3047, for 13-9-55, by Shri  
Samanta regarding the ashes of Netaji  
S.C. Bose.

.....

Dear Embassy,

Please refer to our express letter  
No.D.2905-FEA/55, dated the 4th July, 1955,  
on the above subject.

The Question has since been disallowed.  
No further action, on our letter under reference  
need therefore be taken.

Yours ever,

Ministry of External Affairs.



The Embassy of India in Japan,  
T o k y o.

Encl: nil.

sps02307/  
*[Signature]*



~~SECRET~~

(37)

D.O. No. F.5(1)NGO-I

August 30, 1955.

Subject:- Memorial Service - Subhas Chander Bose.

Dear Mr. Kaul,

With reference to Foreign, New Delhi  
telegram No. 28436 of July 30th, 1955, on the above  
subject, I am desirous to forward herewith for  
information copies of office notings which would  
bring Government up-to-date on the position in this  
behalf.

Yours sincerely,

*AKD*

( A.K.Dar )

Shri T.N. Kaul, ICS,  
Joint Secretary to the  
Government of India,  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
New Delhi.

*Done with  
enclosures.  
20/8.*



(38)



Dear Sir:

Please allow us to offer our congratulations for your health in spite of the hot weather.

On the 18th of August in 1945, Mr. Chandra Bose, patriot of India's Independence died an unexpected death in this foreign land. And through providence of Buddha, we have kept the ashes of the hero in our temple. However, due to various circumstances no action has been taken to honour his memory for the past ten years, and the chief priest of our Temple has been personally protecting ~~the~~ ashes.

It will not be the way to repay the deceased for his virtue to let the situation remain as it is, and our heart is aching day and night as we can hardly stand it.

After consulting with the supporters of our Temple, we have decided to hold a memorial service as stated in the following on the tenth anniversary of the death of the late Mr. Bose.

We sincerely hope that you will kindly honour us with your presence.

September 1, 1955.

Faithfully yours,

-- -- -- --

Time & Date: \ September 18, 1955. 3 p.m.  
(Sunday)

Place: Renkoji Temple, Suginami-ku.

-- -- -- --

(KYOEI MOCHIZUKI)  
Chief priest  
The Renkoji Temple.

(Representatives &  
Caretakers)  
The Renkohji Temple.

To:

His Excellency Mr. B.R. Sen,  
Ambassador of India in Japan.



謹啓 酷暑の候

尊堂愈々御健康之段慶賀申し上げます 陳者昭和二十年八月十八日インド獨立の志士チヤンボラ氏は異郷に不慮の死を遂げられ 佛縁により當寺に聖雄ボース氏の遺骨を護持して参りました爾來十年種々の事情のためその靈を慰める方法も講ぜられず住職獨りの志にて私かにこれをお守りして居ります この様な事情にありますことは決して故人の遺徳に報ゆる道ではなく一宗教人として恐び雖く日夜心痛に堪えないう次第であります 就而故ボース氏の十週年を迎えるに當り聖家と相はかり左記により慰靈祭を行うことになりましたので御光臨の榮を賜はり度く此段御案内申し上げます 敬 具

左記

日時 昭和三十年九月十八日(日) 午后三時

場所 杉並區 蓮光寺 (郵電警察試験場前下車) (南へ一丁右側)

昭和三十年九月一日

東京杉並區高円寺二丁目一三〇番地

蓮光寺住職 望月 敬  
蓮光寺 總世 話人一同代 榮

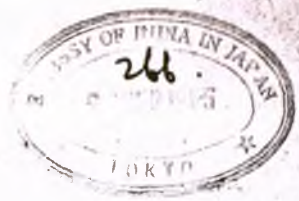
インド大使 B.R. セン様

インド大使 B.R. ヤン様

東京都杉並區南門寺二丁目三〇番地  
蓮光寺住職 望月 叢  
蓮光寺 總

世 話 人 一  
同 代 榮





(39)

*I would like a complete  
set of news & comments on the  
issue as published in the various  
press, especially J. M. S.  
which is sent to the English only.  
1915*

The Mainichi, 19/9/55  
Buddhists' Ceremony for Tenth  
Anniversary of Chandra Bose

On the afternoon of Sept. 18 at the Renkoji Temple  
in Suginami ward the Buddhists' ceremony for Chandra Bose's tenth  
anniversary was held.

Mr. Bose died on Aug. 10, 1945 on account of the accident  
of an airplane on his way to Japan from Formosa.

His remains have been kept at the Renkoji Temple by the  
courtesy of Rev. S. Mechizuki of the temple.

Ten years have passed since Mr. Bose's death, but no  
formal proposal has come from India about taking over his  
remains, which gave sad feeling to the people concerned.

In the ceremony about 80 Indians and Japanese,  
including Rev. Pantissa, Grand Priest of Sanchi Temple in  
India, participated.

( Summary by K. Negami )



遺骨いまだインドに帰らず  
チャンドラ・ボース十回忌法要

○一時中インド独立の志士とい  
われながら、いまは異国の地杉並  
区西荻原寺に眠るス・ボース・チャ  
ンドラ・ボース氏の十回忌法要は  
十八日午後三時から同寺でしや  
か行われた。  
○ボース氏は終戦の年の八月十  
日、戦時中インド独立の志士とい  
われながら、いまは異国の地杉並  
区西荻原寺に眠るス・ボース・チャ  
ンドラ・ボース氏の十回忌法要は  
十八日午後三時から同寺でしや  
か行われた。

○あれから十年、一部関係者の  
墓参する姿は絶えなかったが、い  
まもってインド本国からの正式な  
遺骨引取りの音さだかなく、関係  
者を悲しませている。  
○この日は遺骨を引取る十年  
目となるわけで、会場にはインド  
の聖地サントメド大僧正パナティ  
マサ師はじめ、当時氏と師匠の家  
かった日印両国人約八十人を参列  
静かな静寂のうちにかつての偉人  
をしのびながら黙念する人々の  
列が延々とつづいた。  
○さうして遺骨の法要



(b)  
*Nihon Times, 18/9/51*

**Alive or Murdered?**

**Indians Seek Truth  
About Chandra Bose**

By DAY INOSHITA  
UP Staff Writer

A demand for a full-fledged Government investigation into the death of Indian nationalist leader Subhas Chandra Bose went up from the Indian community in Japan yesterday.

It was sparked by Japanese invitations to Indian leaders to attend a memorial service today for the Indian nationalist leader at an obscure Buddhist temple in the outskirts of Tokyo.

The outburst promised to awake anew the storm of controversy over the death of Bose, in death as in life the center of heated dispute and argument.

Japanese military authorities claimed Bose died in an airplane crash in Taiwan August 18, 1945. But a military aide, who was with him, said he did not hear of his death until afterward, did

not see Bose's body and was only given his ashes to bring back to Japan.

A treasure in gold and jewels donated by Indians all over Asia to finance the fiery Bengali leader's fight for Indian independence was reported to have been in the plane with Bose, but nothing has been seen of it since.

Many Indians still believe Bose is alive. Others believe Bose was murdered. Few accept—openly at least—the Japanese position that the ashes in a jar in the Renkoji Temple are those of the spirited nationalist.

What was the truth? No one knew. And leaders of the Indian community here claimed that no one would know until a thorough investigation had been made.

*Mainichi, 18/9/51*

**Japan Offers To Send  
Chandra Bose's Ashes**

United Press

NEW DELHI, Sept. 17.—Japan has offered to send to India an urn containing the ashes of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, leader of the Indian "National Army" which fought against the Allies during the last war, it was announced today.

Informed sources said that while India would welcome the Japanese gesture there is no substantial proof that the ashes are those of Bose. All that has been established regarding his death was that he died in an air crash near Taipei. No information was ever uncovered about what happened to his body.



(62)  
*Asahi Evening News, 19/9/55*



**MYSTERIOUS ASHES:** Head priest Mochizuki of Renkoji Temple in Nakano Ward, holds an urn containing what are believed to be the ashes of Subhas Chandra Bose, the Indian patriot who is believed to have been killed in a plane crash in Formosa a few days after Japan's surrender. The temple would like to have the ashes claimed by the Indian Government or members of the Bose family, now that more than 10 years have passed since the urn was entrusted to Renkoji. Sunday, at a ceremony in honor of the Indian leader, the priest clarified the temple's stand. Kyodo Photo





Kyodo Photo  
MEMORIAL RITES FOR INDIAN LEADER—Mrs. Katsuko Tojo, widow of the wartime Prime Minister Hideki Tojo, prays beside an Indian resident at the Renkoji Temple, Tokyo, where the 10th anniversary of the death of the late Subhas Chandra Bose was recently observed.

## Death Substantiated

# New Testimony in Bose Case

By The United Press

Three former Japanese army officers, ranging in rank from captain to lieutenant-general, revealed yesterday significant new testimony on the disputed death of Indian Nationalist leader Subhas Chandra Bose 10 years ago.

All three declared they witnessed the death of Bose in a plane accident in Taipei on August 18, 1945, three days after the end of World War II.

One—ex-Major Iwao Takakura of the Imperial Staff Headquarters in Tokyo—also claimed that he personally delivered Bose's ashes and a fortune in gold and jewels, to an official of the Indian Independence Movement in Tokyo early the following month. The fortune belonging to the Bose movement, has since vanished.

Takakura charged that the same Indian official approached him "several times" after the war and warned him to keep silent about the treasure. He

said he did so out of fear of a war crimes prosecution.

The other two officers were Lt. Gen. Haruki Isayama, former Chief of Staff of the Japanese army forces on Formosa, and Capt. Taneyoshi Yoshima, who was director of the Military Hospital in Taipei where it is claimed Bose died.

The Kyodo News Agency produced the men after cries went up from the Indian community here this month insisting that Japanese authorities tear aside the veil of secrecy that has surrounded the death of their leader for the past decade and give an accounting of the missing treasure.

After the war, former Japanese military men said that Bose died in a plane crash in Taipei. They said his ashes were kept in the Renkoji Buddhist temple in Tokyo.

But the Indians have never quite completely accepted this. Many still insist he is alive. Others believe he is dead but think he was murdered for the treasure. Most accept his death but take the position of the Indian Government regarding his ashes.

According to the former army men quoted by Kyodo, Bose was being transported

from Singapore to Russia to escape prosecution by the Allies. A Lt. Gen. "Shidel," a Russian expert who was being transferred to the Manchuria theater, was to see that Bose got to the Soviets.

He and Shidel were in a front seat. Several suitcases containing the Indian fortune were beside Bose. Bose's aide, Captain Habibul Rahman, was in the seat behind his chief.

The two-engined plane was about 50 feet off the ground in the takeoff from Taipei airport around 1 p.m. on August 18 when it stalled and nose-dived into the ground. The fuselage split in two, and the front section was covered with flames.

Six men died in the crash. Some survivors were thrown clear. Rahman escaped with burns. Bose jumped out flaming from head to feet. He and the other injured were rushed to a hospital in a truck. It was past five when he arrived and Captain Yoshimi took over the efforts to save him.

Bose was covered with burn blisters, Yoshimi said. He held back his moans but groaned in awkward Japanese for "water, water." He died around 11:30 p.m.



INCOMING (40)

C.S. No.116.

O. T. P.

TELEGRAM: SECRET.  
FROM: FOREIGN, NEW DELHI.  
TO: INDEMBASSY, TOKYO.



D.T.O. SEP 21 NIL.  
D.T.R. SEP 221000.

IMMEDIATE.

No.6437

There has been reports in Newspapers here on memorial service held for SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE in Tokyo last Sunday. The temple in which it was held was not specifically named but from description it appears to be Renkoji temple. Ceremony reported to have touched off controversy among local Indians over the authenticity of Netaji's ashes and some have denounced ceremony which is reported to have been attended by only three Indians. Three former Japanese Army officials have also joined this controversy and testified to fact of Netaji's death and the authenticity of ashes. Short notice question has been asked in the Parliament. Surprisingly we have had no report from you. Last report we received from you was in DAR's letter F.5(1)NGO-I dated 30th August, 1955, in which he described memorial service held on the 18th August in Renkoji temple. This appears to be the second ceremony held in same temple. Embassy officials with our permission attended the ceremony of 18th August but reports say that boycotted last ceremony of 18th September which reported to have been attended by representative of Japan Foreign Office. Please telegraph full facts and also whether Indian Embassy boycotted 18th September memorial service.

✓  
M.37  
p 58/c

Ambassador  
FS

**SECRET**



# OUTGOING (41)

MOST IMMEDIATE

~~SECRET~~

G. No. 91 (65)

FROM INDEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO FOREIGN NEW DELHI

~~SECRET~~

No. 91

D.T.O. SEP 22 1640

D.T.R. SEP 22 1645

From Ambassador (.)

✓ 81.40/p64-c

Your telegram 6437 September 21st (.) Second memorial service for Subhas Chandra Bose (.) Full details sent by bag today (.) Please await same (.) Briefly a second service was held by Renkoji Temple authorities on 18th September (.) Japanese Government having erroneously decided against representation at 18th August service changed their previous stand about attendance at a private memorial service in temple and attended this second service (.) Japanese Foreign Office was warned clearly that this behaviour of the temple authorities in holding a second service would arouse controversy particularly if Japanese Government were represented in any manner specially in face of their abstention from the correct memorial service of 18th August (.) We suspect that Japanese are somehow anxious for transfer of ashes and have therefore encouraged controversial publicity now (.) Our stand is that having attended the correct tenth anniversary memorial service on 18th August we should not be pressured into attending another service so soon thereafter otherwise Japanese may hold a service every month as they have hinted they well might just to accentuate controversy and show that India is defaulting in taking over the ashes (.) So far as the temple authorities are concerned they seem to be ~~is~~ looking forward to some monetary reward from us for keeping the ashes (.) Would request your clear instructions after you have seen our detailed report mentioned above (.)

~~SECRET~~

( A.K.Dar )  
22. 9. 55



September 22, 1955.

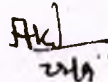
SUBJECT:- SECOND MEMORIAL SERVICE - SUBHAS CHANDER BOSE

Dear Mr. Kaul,

✓ 81.37 / p58/c  
Further to our letter No. F.5(1)NGO-I of the 30th August, 1955, I am desirous to forward herewith an English translation of the invitation received by Ambassador Sen for attendance at a second memorial service held by the Renkoji Temple on September 18th. Copies of the office noting on the subject which give the background information about the second memorial service are also sent herewith.

2. I may add that at the time when the temple authorities were discussing with us about their plan for a memorial service they had suggested two dates either August 18th or September 18th. September 18th had been suggested by them as it would have given them sufficient time for preparation on a grand scale. This Embassy and the Chief Priest of the temple preferred the date August 18th as being the more correct date. It seems that the Chief Priest was subsequently prevailed upon by the temple management committee to hold a memorial service on September 18th despite the fact that the service had been held on August the 18th. Apart from other possible objectives the temple authorities have succeeded through this second memorial service in gaining some publicity for the temple and in securing a small sum of money from the Gaimusho.

Yours sincerely,



( A.K.Dar )

Shri T. N. Kaul, ICS,  
Joint Secretary to the  
Government of India,  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
New Delhi.

~~SECRET~~ (43)

EXPRESS LETTER

No. F.5(1)NGO-I

October 4, 1955.

FROM : INDEMBASSY, TOKYO

TO : FOREIGN, NEW DELHI.

Subject:- MEMORIAL SERVICE - SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE 81.40 p.64/c

Reference:- Your telegram No. 6437 dated 21st September, 1955.

Grateful for advice if the short notice question was allowed to be put and if so the text of the questions and answers and interpellations, if any.

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Issue of the above has been authorised.

*A.K. Dar*  
( A.K. Dar )  
First Secretary





No.F.25/4/NGO

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
NEW DELHI

September 28, 1955.



My dear Dar,

This is to acknowledge,  
with thanks, the receipt of your  
demi-official letter No.F.5(1)NGO-1  
dated the 30th August, which is  
being examined.

Yours sincerely,

A.J. Kidwai

(A.J. Kidwai)

Shri A.K. Dar,  
Embassy of India in Japan,  
Tokyo.

1451  
302  
3 OCT 1955  
TOKYO  
IMMEDIATE  
BY BAG  
EMBASSY OF INDIA JAPAN  
OCT. 28. 1955  
TOKYO  
S/267/55  
28.6.55

No.F.29(8)-FEA/55  
Government of India  
Ministry of External Affairs

NEW DELHI, THE 15th OCTOBER, 1955.

Sub: Memorial Service for Shri Subhas Chandra Bose.

Dear Embassy,

Please refer to your express letter No.F.5(1)NGO-1 dated the 4th October, 1955.

The Questions were answered in the Lok Sabha on the 29th September, 1955. A copy of the questions, together with the answers and supplementaries thereto, are forwarded herewith.

Yours ever,  
MINISTRY



The Embassy of India in Japan,  
TOKYO

\*KUMAR\*/15.10

OB



SHORT NOTICE QUESTION NO. 13 & 14

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 29TH SEPTEMBER, 1955

NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

QUESTION

NO. 13 (SRI KAMATE :  
(SRI RADHA RAMANI :  
(SRI S.N. DAS : Will the Prime Minister

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a memorial service was held on the 18th September, 1955 in Tokyo for Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Indian Ambassador to Tokyo and other members of the Indian Embassy were invited to attend the service;
- (c) whether all or any of them attended; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

.....

ASHES OF NETAJI

NO. 14 DR. RAM SUBHAS SINGH: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of the recent controversy which has arisen about the authenticity of the ashes of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose which have been kept in the Renkoji Temple, Tokyo, Japan;
- (b) if so, the factual information about this matter; and
- (c) whether Government have approached the Government of Japan and the management of the Renkoji Temple to bring those ashes to India?

\*\*\*\*\*

ANSWER

SRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU:

13 & 14 A Memorial Service for the late Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was held on the 18th August, 1955, in the

.....2

Renkoji Temple in Tokyo. The Indian Embassy were invited to the Service, and several members of the Embassy attended. The Ambassador himself was not in Tokyo at the time, but the First Secretary of the Embassy, who represented him, placed a wreath on his behalf on the urn containing the ashes.

Subsequently, the Indian Embassy received an invitation for a second Memorial Service a month later, on the 18th September, in the same temple. They felt that a repetition of the ceremony so soon after the first Memorial Service would detract from the solemnity of the occasion. This view of the Embassy was conveyed to the authorities of the Renkoji Temple, and they were told that the Indian Embassy could not properly be expected to attend another Memorial Service after having done so on the 18th August which was the appropriate date.

Government have not approached the Government of Japan or the management of the Renkoji Temple to bring these ashes to India. Government have felt that in this matter, no steps should be taken without the approval of the family of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

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Balu  
G-4

S.N.Q.Nos. 13 & 14

Shri Kamath: Is it a fact that the Japanese Government contributed nearly 20,000 yen to the Memorial Service either on the 18th August or on the subsequent occasion? And did they approach or ask our Government whether they were willing to make any contribution also to this Service, and if so, what was the reaction of our Government to this request or approach of the Japanese Government?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I think the hon. Member is right in saying that the Japanese Government contributed a sum, probably 20,000 yen, according to Japanese custom. I do not know if they approached our Embassy to contribute any money for this purpose. Normally, it is not done. It is not our custom. It was the Japanese custom, and they followed it.

Shri Kamath: The Prime Minister has said that the question with regard to the ashes, or the supposed ashes, of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is a matter for his family to decide. He has said in the last Parliament on the 9th March 1951, that personally he was not satisfied that the report presented or submitted by Mr S A Iyer, one time member of Netaji's Arzi Hukumat-e-Azad Hind, was convincing enough, and therefore that was not the last word on the subject. May I know whether Government still hold the view that that is not the last word and that the report of Mr S A Iyer is not convincing, and whether it is because of that that Government have not taken any action in this matter with ~~regard~~ regard to the ashes? May I also know whether this matter is merely a family affair or a

(72-<sup>n</sup>)

national affair?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon. Member will notice that what I have said is that the approval of the family is necessary and desirable. I do not say that it is entirely a family affair; certainly, it is a national affair also.

Hon. Members will remember that some time ago, for a considerable time, some people in this country doubted the fact of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's death and challenged that. It became difficult for Government to take any action in this matter when this fact was doubted by some, and certainly not without the approval of the family.

The hon. Member has referred to a report by Mr. Iyer and to what I am reported to have said. I have absolutely no recollection of having made the remark which the hon. Member says I made.

Shri Kamath: I shall pass it on to you.

Mr. Speaker: Later.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It may be that I made the remarks in regard to certain details in that report. But I have no doubt in my mind, I did not have it then, and I have no doubt today, of the fact of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's death. It may be that the circumstances may not be quite clear; it may be so.

In a matter of this kind, the only enquiry, i.e. satisfactory enquiry that can be made is by the Japanese Government. The matter is in Japan; the whole thing is there. We cannot impose ourselves or an enquiry committee on the Japanese Government. Of course, if they choose to enquire, we will very gladly co-operate and give such help as we can. But we simply cannot enquire into their territory, and more specially also, when probably all the possible witnesses are either Japanese Government officials or ~~xx~~ others



connected with that Government.

Shri Kamath: Am I to understand that Government will welcome a proposal for an Indo-Japanese commission to enquire into this matter at official level or governmental level?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have said that the question of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's death is, I think, settled beyond doubt. There can be no enquiry about that. But as for the exact circumstances, possibly if there is an enquiry held, it may be that some additional facts may come to our notice. And as I said, the initiative must come from the Japanese Government in this matter. If it comes, naturally we shall gladly give them such help as we can.

Shri H.N. Mukerjee: The Prime Minister has told us he has no manner of doubt in his own mind about the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Do we take it that this is based on a definite finding by Government in regard to the finality of the information? In that case, I want to know how is it that we are not taking steps to secure the expeditious return of the ashes, and also, apart from that, to do in this country certain jobs which we owe to the memory of the dead. I ask this question because this question of the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose or otherwise has been contested, and ~~the~~ the whole matter is hanging fire for a long time, but people's emotions require to be respected on this issue of the death of a very great man. And that is why I ask the Prime Minister to tell us what steps Government intend to take - now that he is certain that Netaji Subhas Chandga Bose is dead- in regard to the

perpetuation of his memory in this country?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I thought that I had answered this question already.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The Prime Minister has said that Government have not approached the Japanese Government or the management of the Henkoji temple, to bring those ashes to India in the absence of the approval of the family of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. May I know whether Government have approached that family or sought their permission to bring those ashes to India?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Not recently. But references have been made in the past.

Mr. Speaker: Let us go to the next question.

Shri H N Mukerjee: rose---

Mr. Speaker: He has ~~xxxxxx~~ answered the question already. I do not want to argue.

Shri H N Mukerjee: I have not got the answer. The House has not got the answer. The country has not got the answer. Let us have it.

Mr Speaker: Order, order. It is not a ~~hard~~ debate that is going on. The hon. Member will realise that he is asking for information. Even the long question ~~which should have~~ that he put was, really speaking, not a question which should have been allowed by me, but it is because of the emotions and sentiments that I have allowed it. Now, there is an end to it.

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800/2407

(46)

D.O. No. 2483-NGO/55 13/10/55

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
NEW DELHI.

18th October 1955.



My dear Ambassador,

I enclose copy of a minute recorded by the Prime Minister, in Calcutta, regarding the late Shri Subash Chandra Bose. We should be grateful if you would kindly let us know the result of your approach to the Japanese Government on the subject.

2. In addition to the three members of the Committee, I am desired to suggest that your First Secretary might be attached to the Committee for help and guidance.

Yours sincerely,

(T. N. Kaul)

Shri B. R. Sen, ICS.,  
~~Ex~~ Ambassador of India in Japan,  
T O K Y O.

I had an interview with FM (Kato) lasting 45 minutes. I explained our proposal in terms of Mr. Nehru's letter. FM said that such an enquiry committee would be a waste but he has a formal reply after he had taken the matter to the Cabinet. He said a brief communication is possible.

~~SECRET.~~

26

## PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT

I met Shri B. R. Sen, our Ambassador in Tokyo, in Calcutta this evening. I asked him to inform the Japanese Government informally that, in view of the great interest in India in regard to the circumstances of the death of Shri Subas Chandra Bose and in his ashes, it would be desirable to have some kind of an investigation in this matter so as to remove any doubts from people's minds about these circumstances. It is obvious that no such enquiry can take place without the consent, approval and cooperation of the Japanese Government. If they are agreeable, as we hope they will be, then we propose to send a team of three persons who will place themselves at the disposal of the Japanese Government and conduct an enquiry in Japan in cooperation with the Japanese Government. This is all that need be said to the Japanese Government at this stage, and we should await their reply.

2. It is our intention to request Shri Amiya Bose, son of Shri Sarat Chandra Bose, and Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, Parliamentary Secretary and previously of the INA, to be two members of this team. The third should be an official either from the Government of India or the West Bengal Government.

3. The enquiry should be carried out without too much fuss or publicity. It should be largely confined to the circumstances of the death and as to whether the ashes at present in a Japanese temple are Shri Subhas Chandra Bose's ashes.

4. It is possible that questions might arise about the so-called treasure of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose. Some of the Indian merchants in Japan have raised this question from time to time. I do not think we should mix up this matter with the other enquiry. Indeed, it is very difficult to enquire into this treasure, and the only people who can perhaps throw some light are the Japanese or some of the close associates of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose. I had some kind of an enquiry made in Malaya some years ago. We recovered some gold. It seemed to me then that all the moneys with the India League had vanished because they were in Japanese currency which had no value left.

5. It is possible that some treasure was with Shri Subhas Chandra Bose when he died. Some small bit of it was sent to us. It consists of burnt pieces of jewellery etc. Their value is not great. I think these pieces etc. are with the External Affairs Ministry. I doubt very much if there is the slightest hope of our tracing any other treasure. In any event, the team we send should not go into that matter. If any facts come to our notice and the Japanese Government helps, we might take this up later.

6. I told Shri B.R. Sen that if and when this team goes to Japan, our Embassy should help them in every way and should not keep aloof. Indeed, they should realise that this is an enquiry sponsored by Government.

contd....



7. Although I have spoken to Shri B.R. Sen on this subject, a formal letter should be sent to him also. Meanwhile, Dr. B.C. Roy might be good enough to inform Shri Amiya Bose and get his reactions.

Sd/- J. Nehru)

16.10.1955

Camp: Calcutta.

(47)  
OUTGOING

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

FROM INDEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO FOREIGN NEW DELHI

NO. 107

D.T.O. NOV. 12/12/55

D.C.O. NOV 12/12/55

Foreign Secretary from Ambassador (.)

✓ 8/46  
PTS-71/4  
Late Subhas Chandra Bose (.) Kaul's letter 2483-  
NGO/65 October 18th (.) Please inform Prime  
Minister that in accordance with his directive  
I have discussed with Foreign Minister the proposal  
to send Enquiry Committee to investigate into  
the circumstances of death and the identity of the  
ashes (.) Foreign Minister has consulted the  
Cabinet and I have been informed that Japanese  
Government accept the proposal fully and will be  
glad to cooperate in every way (.)

Awaiting further instructions (.)

\* \* \* \* \*

~~SECRET~~

*A.K. Dar*  
( A.K. Dar )  
12. 11. 55



Am. FS 12/1/41  
Spoke to (48) 1501  
25  
F.S.  
The Naigai Times, Jan. 7, 1956

India To Send Investigation Group  
To Japan For Chandra Bose's Death  
His Death By Accident Claimed As  
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About the cause of death of Mr. Bose there are some rumours, but Japan announced that Mr. Bose had died of burn, resulting from an airplane accident, which took place in Formosa on Aug. 18, 1945. Besides, an urn containing the ashes, claimed to be those of Mr. Bose, has been kept at the Renkeji Temple, Suginami-ku, Tokyo, since Sept. '45.

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Last September the Japanese Government, through the Foreign Office, expressed formally its desire to send back to India the ashes of Mr. Bose kept at the Renkeji Temple, but the Indian Government did not welcome the proposal as there was almost nothing to testify to the truth of the ashes. Indian newspapers also insisted that the matter should not be decided only through the one-sided announcement of Japanese side, and besides a lot of jewels carried by Mr. Bose, which had been donated by the Indians for the independent movement, were still missing.

Mr. A.M. Nair further insisted that the cause of death of Mr. Bose claimed to be due to an airplane accident was a faked story as there were left no articles of Mr. Bose, such as his shoes, ring or wrist-watch. Besides, the jewels carried by him, valued at several ten billion yen, were missing, he said. ( Continued )



Amr / FS  
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Mr. Nair added further that there were no <sup>uniformity</sup> unity of the talks made by the persons who claimed to have witnessed the plane accident in the airfield of Formosa.

Mr. Mario Takakura, formerly the staff of the Imperial Army Headquarters, revealed as follows:

xxxxxxSeptxxxiixixthaxixhaxixwaxixxiixbxxxxxantainix  
MxxxBxxxxixgndxxandxxhiexashxx

" It was on Sept. 7th that the ashes of Mr. Bose and two oil boxes which contained his goods reached the Imperial Army Headquarters. I received them. On 8th I handed over all of them to Mr. Murty, senior officer of India Independent League in Japan. Afterwards I was told by one of my fellow staff that the contents of his goods were gold bars and diamonds.

" At any rate it happened at such a time when some Generals committed suicide and General Tojo also attempted to commit suicide. So, we might have done some mistakes in dealing with the ~~man~~ above, though, I believe, we have done our best."

-----  
( Tr. K. Negami )



明へ

遣派

瑤娥三智子



巨億の宝石は何処へ？

遺骨は真ッ赤な二セもの

終戦後の二十八年八月十八日台北飛行場で飛行機墜落事故のため死したと伝えられた当時インド仮政府首脳国民軍司令官ポースドラ・ポース氏の死の原因については不審な点があるとして、インド政府はこの真相調査のため本年十二月初彼者とシムラタラワド・チャンドラ・ポース氏三名からなる調査団を本に派遣、日本政府の協力を得てその究明に乗り出すことになった。これはポース氏の犠牲力によってポース氏

ニナル。同会社長井原人・M・ナル氏(が)国民の権限に於て、ネル印政府ヲ動か(し)との議ひとな。たも時にこれが、ネル印死亡の真相が明(か)きれると同時に、當時に於ていた數十億円にのぼる(と)われる左右の行方も明(か)きれるものとみられ、調査の結果は、印同国の国際問題をば、五權のてつ目(め)とされる。

果を以て導くとして待つてゐる。  
この調査はボース氏がなつ  
てゐるかと云ふ印度國の世論  
に當るもので、たゞボース  
氏が敘された上斷定されても犯

ものではない。いすれにしても  
印度全国民は「日も早く真相の  
発表されるのを待っている」と  
語っている。

在りし日のポーランドと  
独逸にある問題の遺骨

大型フィルム

ワイド・スクリーンから

「アールである。ニュートン・行われている。」

とあらうといふ無量の苦がなほ

1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 26



Translation.

THE GAIMUSHO

Dy No 50  
3.2.56

No.24/A4

NOTE VERBALE

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents  
its compliments to the Embassy of India in Japan,  
and has the honour to enclose herewith a report,  
prepared by the Ministry, on the cause of death  
and other matters related to the late Subhas Chandra  
Bose for the latter's information.

Tokyo, January 31, 1956.



第四二四号

口 上 書

外務省は、在本邦インド大使館に敬意を表するとともに、同省で調成した故スパス・チャンドラ・ボース氏の死因等に関する報告書を御参考までに別添のとおり送付するの光栄を有する。

昭和三十一年一月三十一日



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Investigation on the cause of death and

other matters of the late Subhas Chandra Bose.

Regarding the cause of death of the late Subhas Chandra Bose and articles left by him, inquiries were made of the following persons who are considered to have had some relations with the matter.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Occupation at that time</u>
Mr. T. Hachiya	Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Provisional Government of Free India.
Mr. S. Nonogaki	Lieut.-Colonel, Staff Officer, Headquarters, Air Forces in Java.
Mr. T. Yoshimi	Surgeon Captain, Head, Nanmon Branch of Taipei Army Hospital.
Mr. T. Tsuruta	Army surgeon of the above Hospital.
Mr. K. Arai	Captain, Headquarters, Tsukasa Air Corps.
Mr. M. Takakura	Lieut.-Colonel, Staff Officer, Imperial Headquarters.
Mr. M. Shibuya	Lieut.-Colonel, Staff Officer, Headquarters, Army Forces in Formosa.
Mr. T. Sakai	Lieut.-Colonel, Staff Officer, Headquarters, Army Forces in Burma.
Mr. K. Sakai	Major, Battalion Commander, Taipei Military Air Port.
Mr. M. Kinoshita	Major, Imperial Headquarters.
Mr. M. Nakamura	Captain, Taipei Military Air Port.
Mr. H. Hasegawa	Sublieutenant, Imperial Headquarters.
Mr. T. Hayashida	Sublieutenant, Headquarters, Army Forces in Formosa.

An outline of the result of the investigations is as follows:

1. Movements of Mr. Bose

August 17,	8 a.m.	left Bangkok
"	11 a.m.	arrived at Saigon
"	5 p.m.	left Saigon
"	7:30 p.m.	arrived at Tourane
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"	1.50 p.m.	left Taipei

Immediately after taking off, the airplane in which he rode fell to the ground, and he was wounded.

August 18, about 3.00 p.m. he entered the Nanmon Branch of Taipei Army Hospital.

" 7.00 p.m. he died.

August 22, he was cremated (at the Taipei Municipal crematorium)

August 23, his funeral ceremony was held (at the Taipei Nishi-Honganji Temple)

Mr. Bose, accompanied by Adjutant Rahmin, left Saigon on August 17 on board a liaison airplane (heavy bomber, twine-engined, Type II remodelled 97), and arrived at Taipei air-port a little past noon on the next day.

The airplane, first scheduled to land at Heito air-port, Taiwan (Formosa), changed the plan on the way for flying to Taipei directly, as both the weather and engines had been found to be in good condition, and extended its flight to Taipei without any notice there beforehand.



The airplane left Taipei air-port before 2 p.m. after refueling and lunching.

At the moment when the pitch of the propellers was changed after the plane had taken off and risen about 20 metres above the ground, one petal of the three-petaled propeller of the left wing was suddenly broken, and the engine fell off. The airplane, subsequently unbalanced, crashed into ballast piles, beside the strip of the air-port, for repairing bombed holes (Reference: Annex I), and was wrapped in flames in a moment.

Immediately after the plane's fall, the passengers on board escaped from it, but, as the persons in the front deck (Reference: Annex II) were soaked with gasoline in auxiliary tanks all over their bodies, they suffered serious burns; Lieut.-General Shidei and other two men died within the plane.

Mr. Bose, wrapped up in flames, got off the plane; Adjutant Rahmin and other passengers exerted themselves to take his clothes off, but as his thick sweater for cold weather was permeated with gasoline, his whole body was seriously wounded by burns.

Mr. Bose, wholly unclothed, was sent to the Nanmon Branch of Taipei Army Hospital accompanied by Adjutant Rahmin, Staff-Officer Nonogaki, and other persons. He was diagnosed by the Head of the Hospital Yoshimi, and Military-Surgeon Tsuruta (surgical treatment was mainly done by Military-Surgeon Tsuruta, a surgical expert).

At the commencement of the treatment, Mr. Bose said that other persons might as well be treated first and he would be treated last, but the treatment was commenced with him.

His conditions: His whole body suffered serious burns 2° and 3° (2° = dropsical swellings appear on the skin; 3° = skin is carbonized), and had a colour of oxidized silver caused from burns and sores. His face unusually swollen, but his consciousness was clear.

A considerable quantity of Ringer's solution was instantly injected; wounds and burns were treated; and after the injections of Sulfa-drugs, he was swathed from top to toe, and brought to a sick-room. (Reference: Annex III).

Mr. Bose, thinking he could not live, asked Military-Surgeon Tsuruta to attend on him all night, so Tsuruta continued to sit beside the sick-bed.

Until about 7 p.m. he kept clear consciousness, and had talks with Adjutant Rahmin, but suddenly his consciousness was lost, and his heart ceased to move. In spite of several injections of heart stimulant and artificial respiration, he could not revive.

By his side were Military-Surgeon Tsuruta, Colonel Rahmin, Interpreter Nakamura and a gendarme (as a guard) at the moment of his death. (Reference: Annex IV)

2. Disposition of his remains and articles left by him.

(1) Major Sakai, Ex-Battalion Commander of Taipei Airport, ordered 20 odd soldiers under his command and gendarmes to collect baggage of the passengers of the wrecked plane on the afternoon of August 18.



At this search, things considered to have belonged to Mr. Bose were put into a 18-litre's petroleum can, which was sealed in the presence of the commander and gendarme on duty and brought to the Taiwan (Formosa) Army Headquarters.

(2) At the Headquarters, Lieut.-Colonel Shibuya, an aerial chief, received it and put it in a wooden box.

The box was sealed once again and kept safely, and was sent, together with Mr. Bose's remains, to Tokyo under the care of Adjutant Rahmin and Lieut.-Colonel Sakai, ex-staff officer of the Army in Burma district, who left Taipei on September 5.

(3) As Colonel Rahmin and Lieut.-Colonel Sakai were somewhat disabled due to wounds, the custody of the box was entrusted to Sublieutenant Hayashida, a fellow-traveller, on the way.

After arriving at Fukuoka, Lieut.-Colonel Sakai took charge of the transport of the box under the guard of three soldiers dispatched from the Army of the Western District.

The group went up to Tokyo by train, and on September 7, 11:00 p.m. the box was handed to Major Kinoshita, commanding officer of the week, Imperial Headquarters.

(4) The box was transferred to Lieut.-Colonel Takakura, staff-officer, Imperial Headquarters, about 8 a.m. on the following day.

(5) The remains of Mr. Bose were handed to Mr. Ayyar, and the articles left by Mr. Bose to Mr. Murti, respectively, from Lieut.-Colonel Takakura a few minutes past noon on the same day at the entrance of the Imperial Headquarters.

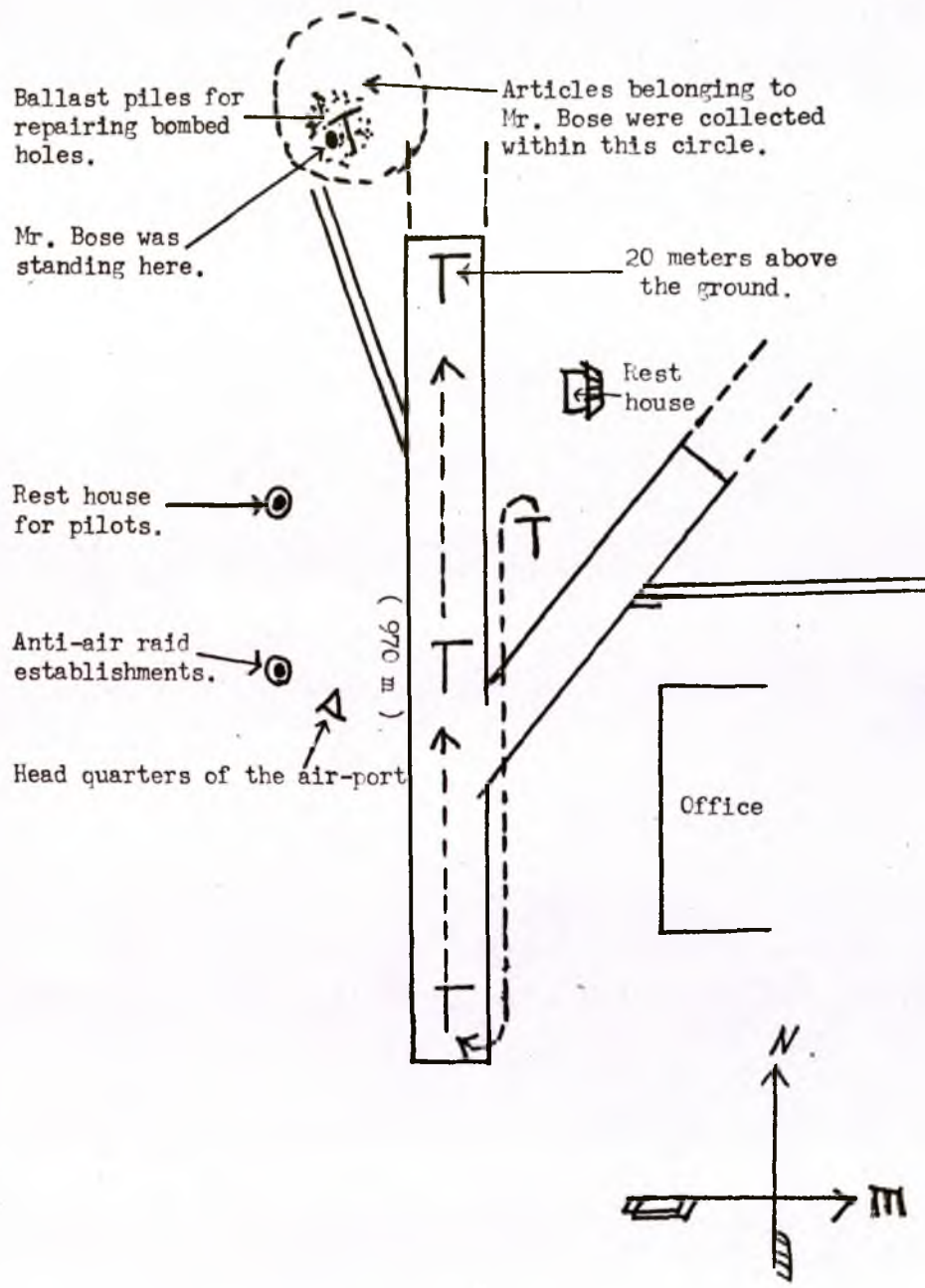
It is additionally stated that, according to the man who then commanded his subordinates at the air-port in collecting the articles, the can was 90 per cent filled, the contents of which were decoration-like metals, chain-like metals, ring-like metals and spurs, but, as those things had been burnt at the accident, none of them were clearly identified.

Other than the personnel working at the air-port at that time, no one knew anything about the contents, because the box was strictly sealed.

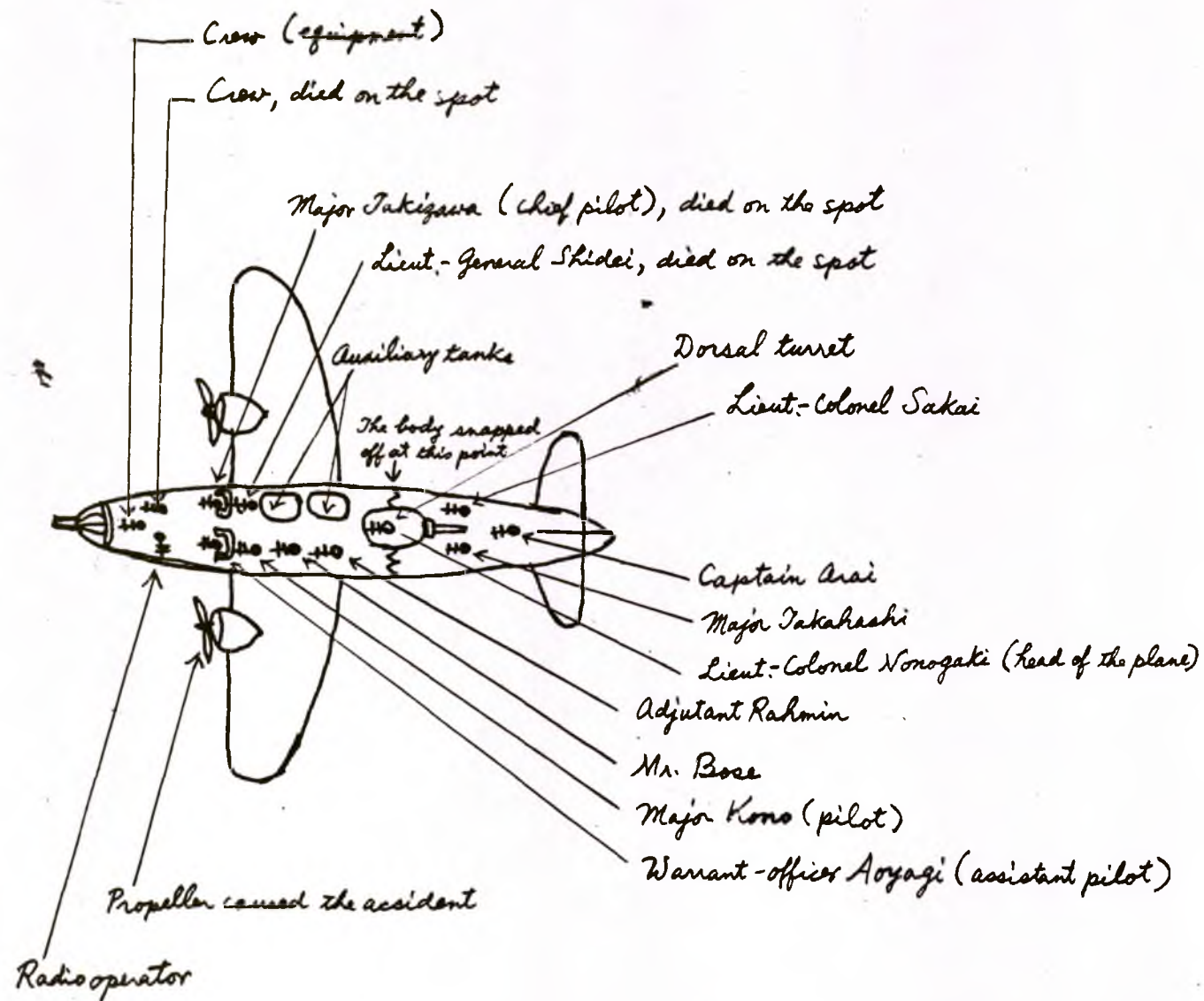


Sketch-map of the Air Fort.

(1)

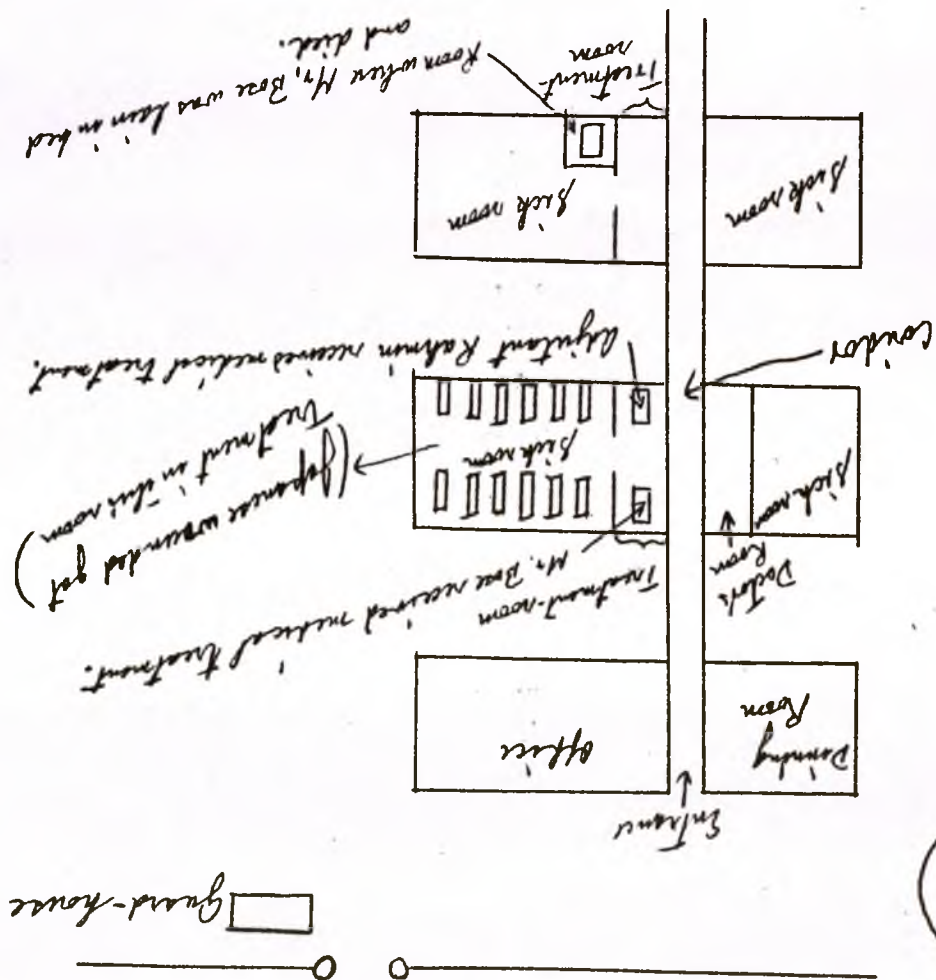


II





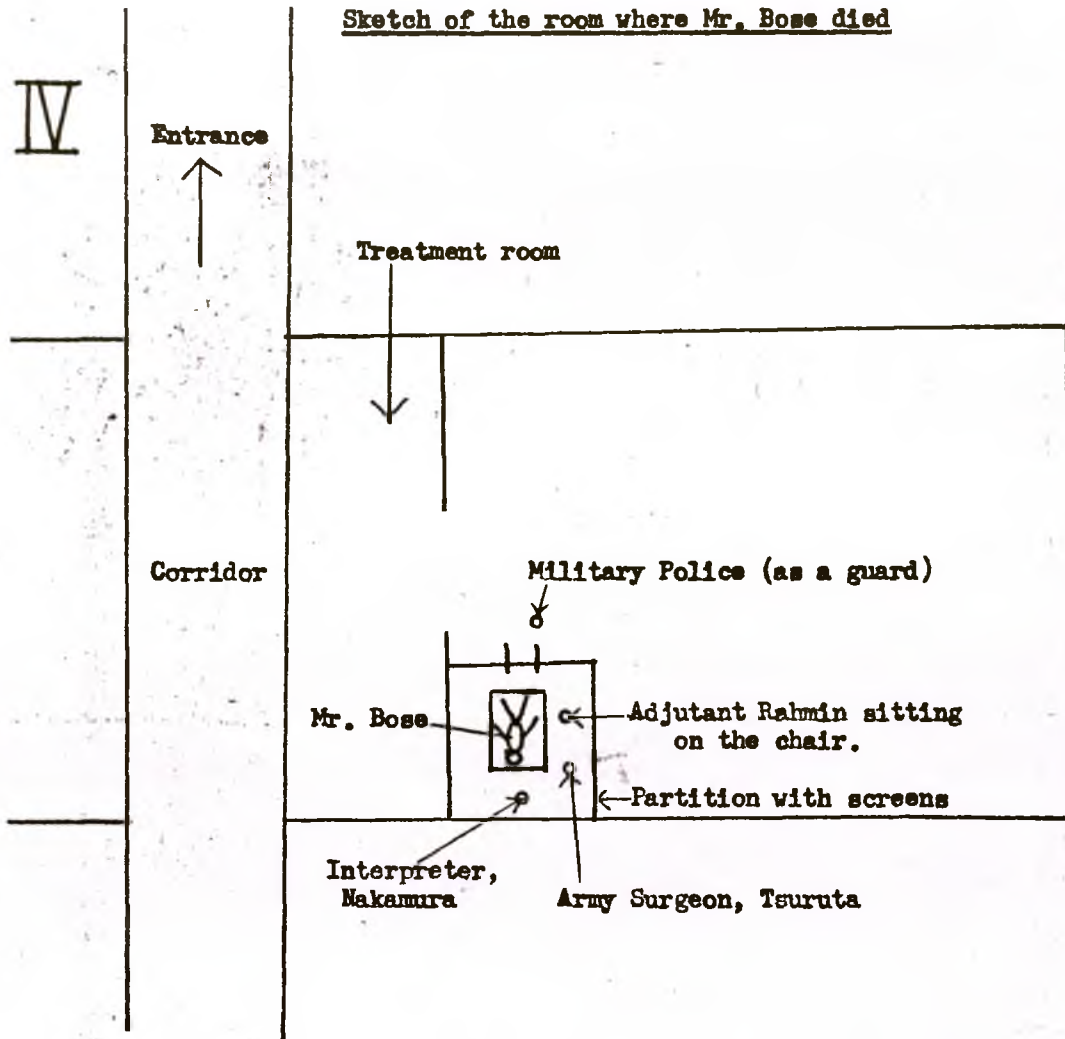
(III)



This sketch was drawn on December 13, '15,  
According to the memory of Mr. Tammela, then - Army  
Surgeon of the Army Hospital.

IV

Sketch of the room where Mr. Bose died



(This sketch was drawn according to the memory of Mr. Tsuruta)



(93)

(50)

**TOP SECRET**

**D.O. No. F.5(1)NGO-I**

**February 6, 1956.**

My dear Dutt,

I enclose a Note Verbale which I have received from the Gaimusho on the circumstances of the death of Subhas Chandra Bose. I understand that this material has been collected by the Gaimusho in preparation for the visit of our Investigation Committee and at this stage this material is intended only for our information at the Embassy. However, I feel that the material should also be brought to your notice for your official information. We shall place this material before the Investigation Committee when they arrive in Tokyo.

2. It will be seen that the Note clearly mentions the presence of Colonel Rahman "at the moment of his death". Annexure IV gives the sketch of the room where Subhas Bose died and where Colonel Rahman was seated at the time of his death. I am, however, told that Rahman, in a statement made in Calcutta recently, denied having seen Subhas Bose's dead body. I doubt the correctness of this report as, I believe, Prime Minister's statement in Parliament on Subhas Bose's death was based on the testimony of Rahman that he was present when Subhas Bose died. In any case, you might have this report of Rahman's statement verified. If Rahman now really denies having been present at the time of the death of Subhas Bose, then the correctness of the Japanese report on the whole matter will be open to grave doubt and criticism. In this connection, you might also consider whether the Committee should examine Rahman before they leave India.

3. I saw a press telegram the other day mentioning that the Investigation Committee will come here in March. I suggest that they might arrive here at the end of March when I shall have returned from the New Delhi Conference.

Yours sincerely,

   
(B. R. Sen)

Shri S. Dutt,  
Foreign Secretary,  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
New Delhi.

Enclosures:



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At the commencement of the treatment, Mr. Bose said that other persons might as well be treated first and he would be treated last, but the treatment was commenced with him.

His conditions: His whole body suffered serious burns 2° and 3° (2° = dropsical swellings appear on the skin; 3° = skin is carbonized), and had a colour of oxidized silver caused from burns and sores. His face unusually swollen, but his consciousness was clear.

A considerable quantity of Ringer's solution was instantly injected; wounds and burns were treated; and after the injections of Sulfa-drugs, he was swathed from top to toe, and brought to a sick-room. (Reference: Annex III)..



Mr. Bose, thinking he could not live, asked Military-Surgeon Tsuruta to attend on him all night, so Tsuruta continued to sit beside the sick-bed.

Until about 7 p.m. he kept clear consciousness, and had talks with Adjutant Rahmin, but suddenly his consciousness was lost, and his heart ceased to move. In spite of several injections of heart stimulant and artificial aspiration, he could not revive.

By his side were Military-Surgeon Tsuruta, Colonel Rahmin, Interpreter Nakamura and a gendarme (as a guard) at the moment of his death. (Reference: Annex IV)

2. Disposition of his remains and articles left by him.

(1) Major Sakai, Ex-Battalion Commander of Taipei Air-port, ordered 20 odd soldiers under his command and gendarmes to collect baggage of the passengers of the wrecked plane on the afternoon of August 18.

At this search, things considered to have belonged to Mr. Bose were put into a 18-litre's petroleum can, which was sealed in the presence of the commander and gendarme on duty and brought to the Taiwan (Formosa) Army Headquarters.

(2) At the Headquarters, Lieut.-Colonel Shibuya, an aerial chief, received it and put it in a wooden box.



The box was sealed once again and kept safely, and was sent, together with Mr. Bose's remains, to Tokyo under the care of Adjutant Rahmin and Lieut.-Colonel Sakai, ex-staff officer of the Army in Burma district, who left Taipei on September 5.

(3) As Colonel Rahmin and Lieut.-Colonel Sakai were somewhat disabled due to wounds, the custody of the box was entrusted to Sublieutenant Hayashida, a fellow-traveller, on the way.

After arriving at Fukuoka, Lieut.-Colonel Sakai took charge of the transport of the box under the guard of three soldiers dispatched from the Army of the Western District.

The group went up to Tokyo by train, and on September 7, 11:00 p.m. the box was handed to Major Kinoshita, commanding officer of the week, Imperial Headquarters.

(4) The box was transferred to Lieut.-Colonel Takakura, staff-officer, Imperial Headquarters, about 8 a.m. on the following day.

(5) The remains of Mr. Bose were handed to Mr. Ayyar, and the articles left by Mr. Bose to Mr. Marti, respectively, from Lieut.-Colonel Takakura a few minutes past noon on the same day at the entrance of the Imperial Headquarters.



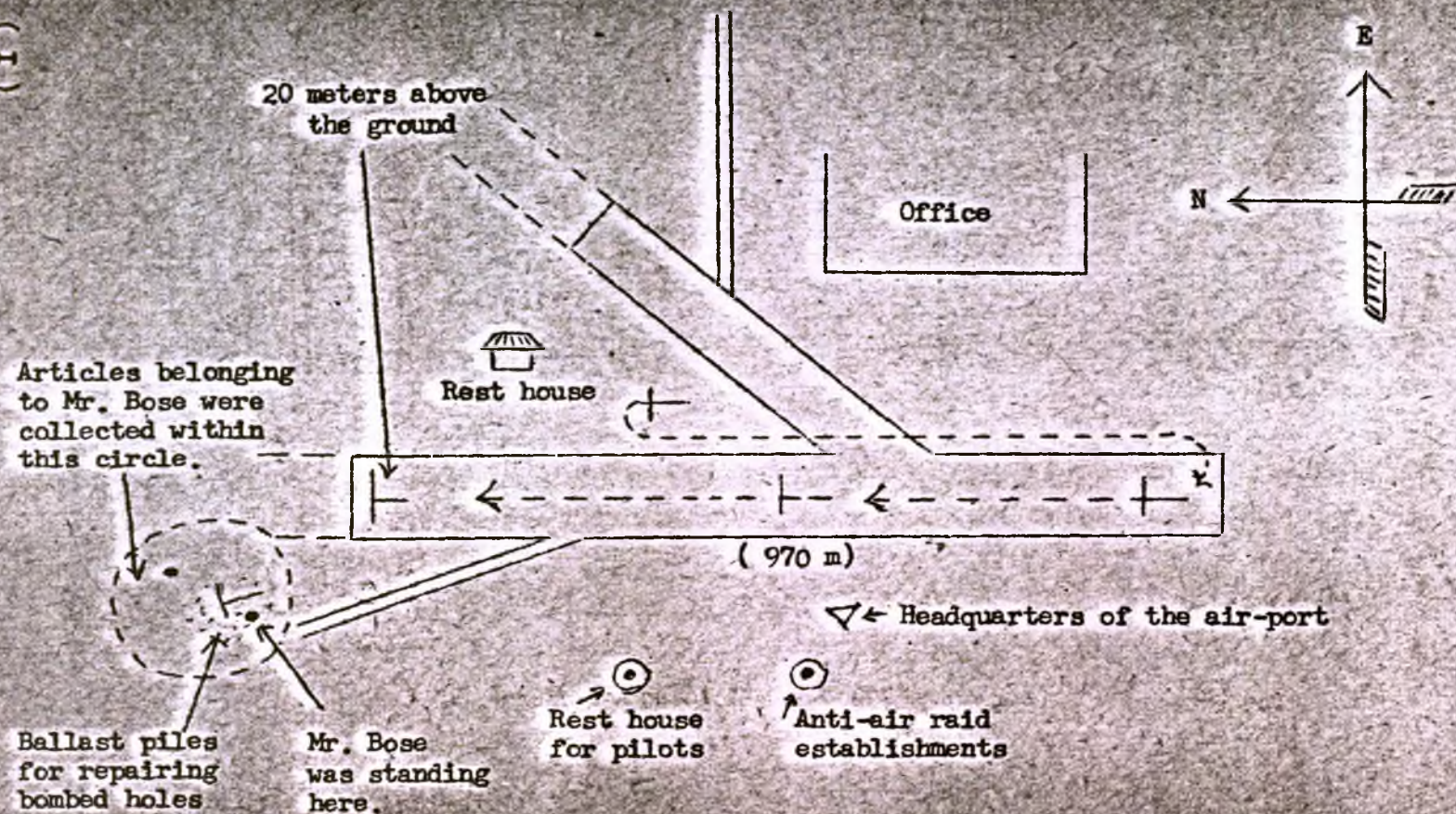
It is additionally stated that, according to the man who then commanded his subordinates at the air-port in collecting the articles, the can was 90 per cent filled, the contents of which were decoration-like metals, chain-like metals, ring-like metals and spurs, but, as those things had been burnt at the accident, none of them were clearly identified.

Other than the personnel working at the air-port at that time, no one knew anything about the contents, because the box was strictly sealed.



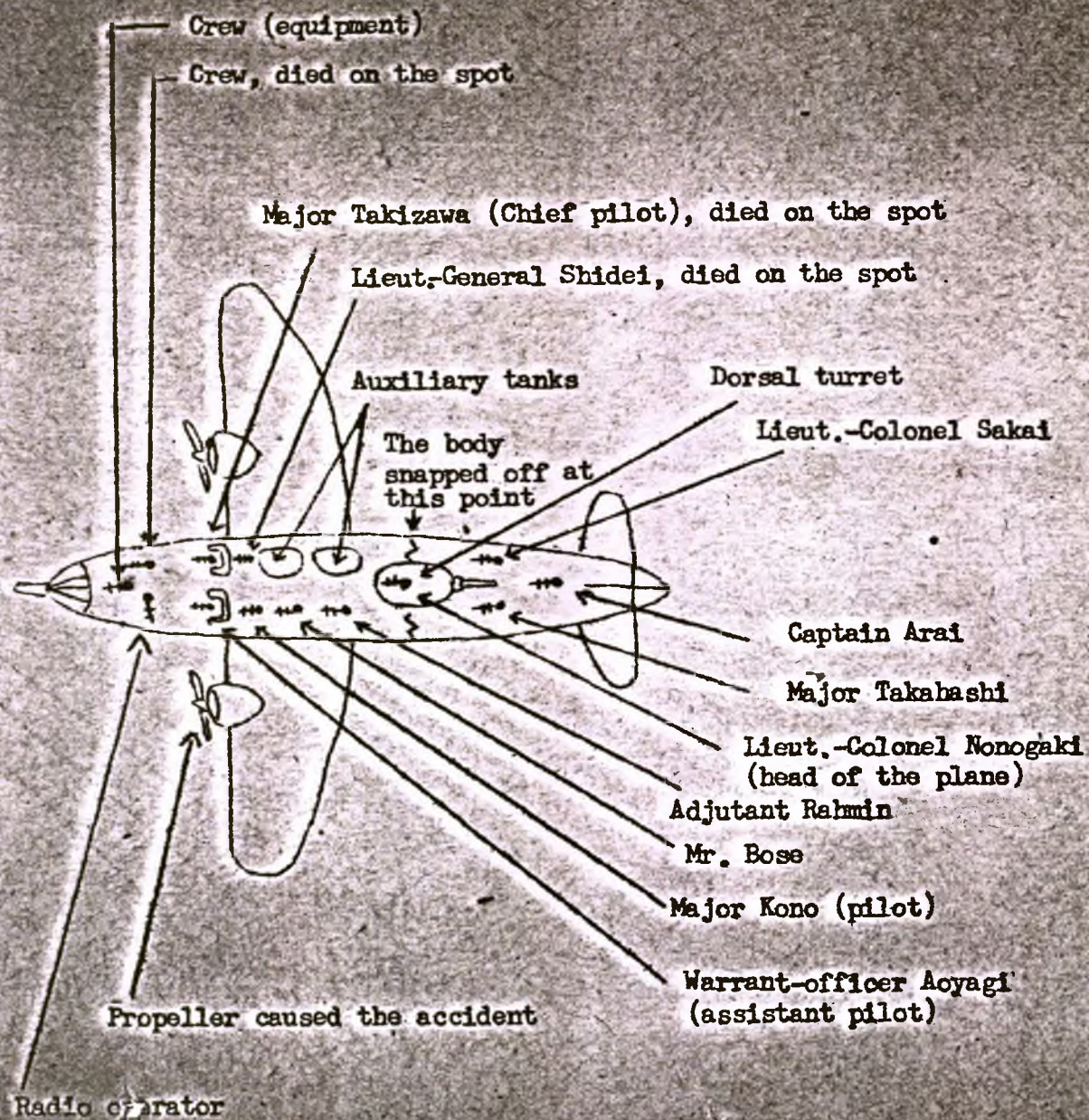
Sketch-map of the Air Port.

( I )





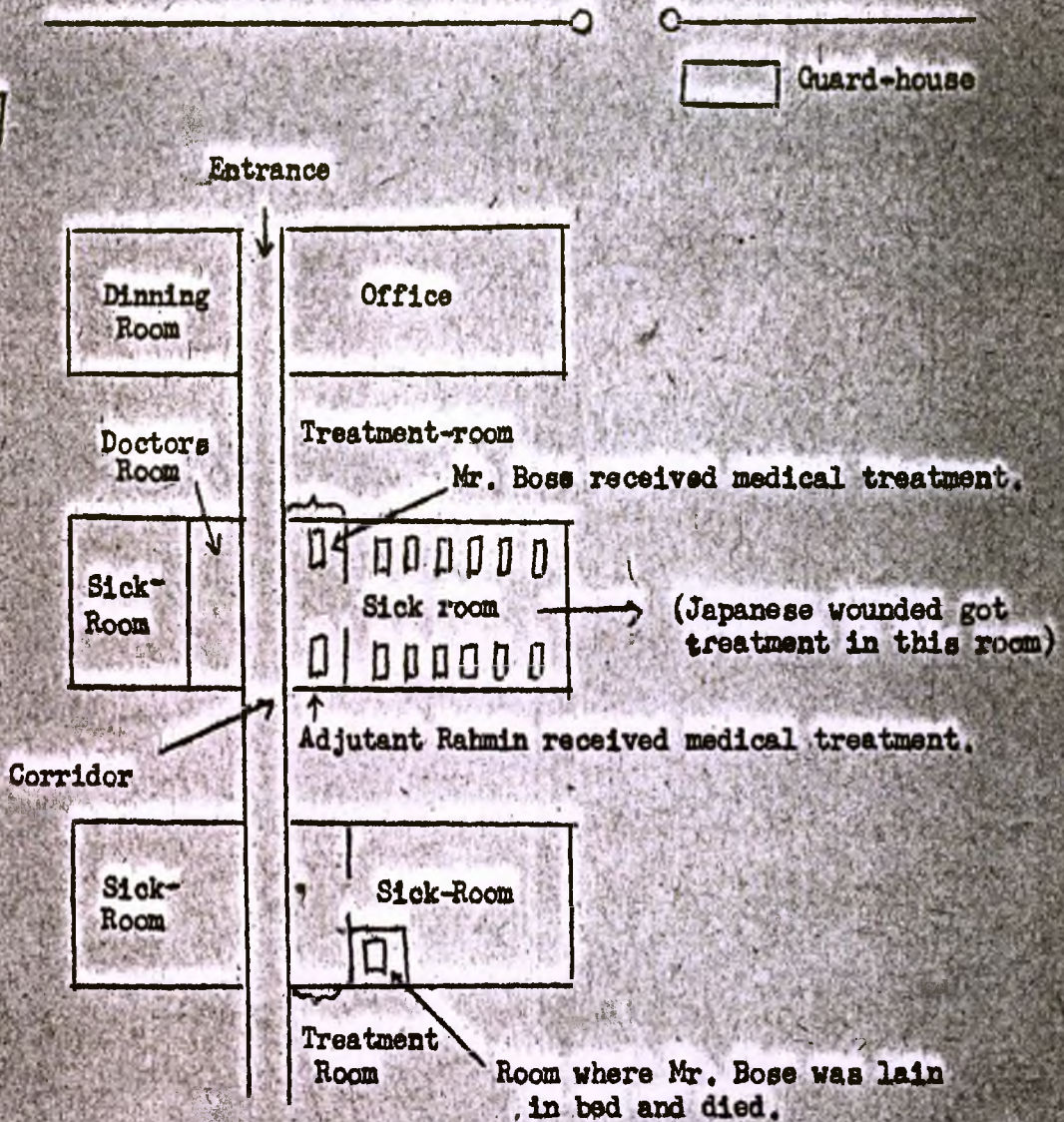
(II)





Sketch of the Nammon Branch of Taipei Army Hospital

[ III ]



(This sketch was drawn on December 13, 1955, according to the memory of Mr. Tsuruta, then Army Surgeon of the Army Hospital.)



{IV}

Entrance



Treatment room



Corridor

Military Police (as a guard)



Mr. Bose



Adjutant Rahmin sitting  
on the chair.

Partition with screens

Interpreter,  
Nakamura

Army Surgeon, Tsuruta

(This sketch was drawn according to the memory  
of Mr. Tsuruta)





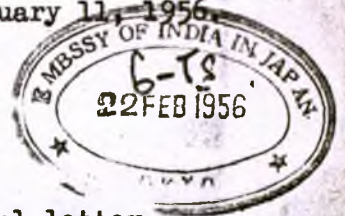
TOP SECRET

(51)

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
NEW DELHI

No.FS/154

February 11, 1956



My dear Sen,

Please refer to your demi-official letter

No.F.5(1)-NGO-I of February 6. We have read the Note

Verbale, received from the Japanese Foreign Office, with

interest. We also note that you will place the material

before the Investigation Committee when it arrives in

Tokyo. In the meantime we shall let the Committee have

a preliminary look at this material before they leave

India.

2. It does not look that the Committee will be able to leave India before early April. R.K. Mitra, who was to be a Member of the Committee, has recently joined as Chairman of the Calcutta Port Trust and will no longer be available. We are trying to get Sankar Moitra, at present Chief Commissioner, Andamans, to take his place.

3. We have noted the suggestion in paragraph 2 of your letter.

Yours sincerely,

(S. DUTT)  
Foreign Secretary.

Shri B.R. Sen,  
Ambassador of India,  
Tokyo.

*Handwritten notes:*  
H. Sen  
may see  
@ 24/2  
Ans  
24/2



511 (52) 76 13 FEB 1956

"Mystery About Chandra Bose"

By Masaaki Tanaka, director of the Indo-Japanese Friendship Association.

(Published in the Nihon Shuho, a weekly news magazine, January 25th issue)

9. The rumour is still current in India that Subas Chandra Bose, the Indian independence movement leader who headed the Indian National Army in the World War II is still alive despite the generally accepted story that he is dead in an air crash in Taipeh Airfield on August 18, 1945. This has resulted in the despatching by the Indian Government of an inquiry mission to Japan. In these circumstances it may be helpful that the general public be enlightened on this controversial issue which is casting 'a dark shadow' on the diplomatic relation between India and Japan. - Ed.

"Don't speak about Bose"

The rumour is persistent and deep-rooted among people in India to the effect that Chandra Bose is still alive despite the generally accepted story in Japan that he was killed in an air accident in Taipeh on August 18, 1945, following close to the termination of the World War II. At the time of his death, his status known to us was Chief of State of the Provisional Government of India and Supreme Commander of the Indian National Army.

9. To clarify his death the Government of India has recently decided to send to Japan a three-member inquiry mission including a younger brother of Netaji. They are reported to arrive in Japan on and around January 20. The Japanese Government is expected to give assistance to the Indian inquiry mission in regard to this matter. I presume the public opinion in India reluctant to accept the Bose death as true has at last moved the Indian Government to take this step.

One complex element in this matter is the missing jewels estimated variously in terms of billions of yen which are told to have been collected from Indian people for the Bose's chest for Indian independence movement and the whereabouts of which still remain in enigma since the death of Bose.



The jewels were reportedly contained in two suit cases which were being carried by Bose when he met the mishap. It is assumed that clarification of this missing treasure may pose one knotty problem in connection with the coming inquiry.

In the circumstances that Bose is believed still alive and he retains a wide popularity among Indians looked upon as a national hero, the result of the inquiry mission would be accepted with much sensation in India. So much so important is the forthcoming inquiry particularly in respect of its possible bearings on the relations between Japan and India, the Japanese Government can hardly remain aloof to it.

For these ten years, the Gaimusho, it seems, has remained non-committal to this issue and has avoided to touch it as a knotty issue. When Mr. Yasaburo Shimonaka, president of the Indo-Japanese Friendship Association visited India last year, he was reportedly warned by Japanese Ambassador Nishiyama not to touch the Bose question under any circumstances. Both Ambassador Nishiyama and his successor Yoshizawa reportedly refrained from making any comment on Bose when questioned about him at the press conference held following the latter's presentation of the credentials. Such an attitude of Japanese official circles, it is assumed, only served to increase suspicion about Bose's whereabouts <sup>existing</sup> among Indian people, to the detriment of good relations between the two countries.

Japanese assistance to Chandra Bose's independence movement is a well-known fact among Indians and there is little doubt as to the sincerity of Japanese <sup>shown</sup> towards the success of his movement. In this picture it is indeed deplorable to know that suspicion exists among Indians about the death of Chandra Bose.

In this situation it would be most advisable both for the Japanese Government and those who used to be connected with Bose to extend their cooperation ~~in~~ the work of the forthcoming



Indian inquiry mission to furnish any information which may be helpful to them.

At this juncture I should warn the Japanese press particularly not to seek sensationalism from this issue just on the score of the missing jewels. An approach to this issue should be objective and no personal prejudice should come in the picture to complicate the issue.

Every year on January 22 the birthday of Netaji is still widely observed in India. In Calcutta, the native place of Netaji, the flag of the Indian National Army which he ~~used to~~ lead, are ~~seen~~ hoisted at every housetop and citizens parade in the streets carrying placards with enlarged photos of Chandra Bose, shouting "Jai Netaji ki". Even children and women participate in the celebrations putting on their Sunday clothes. The whole city joins to celebrate the birthday of their most beloved leader with all pomp and fanfares. When the time traditionally believed <sup>to be</sup> as the moment of his birth comes, the whole city resounds in a chorus of "Long Live Netaji."

Those in India who believe that Bose is still alive are found not only among those illiterate masses but also among leading journalists and intellectuals. For instance, N.D. Mujumdar, a former Minister of Bengal State, once wrote in the Hindu that he has evidence which tells Bose is alive. Commentator Mohit Mitra said that Bose is alive somewhere just for the sake of the people he loves. V.H. Kamath said, "I have never seen such a great leader as Netaji who enjoyed so much affection among the Indian people,

✓ He is now out of our sight but I have no doubt that he is still alive somewhere." S. Harekrushna Mehab even went so far as to say, "We strongly protest those who accept his death as a fait-accompli. We observe the Netaji's birthday in a big manner by way of our protest to such a belief."



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Ten years after the end of the World War II respect for Chandra Bose is still high among Indian masses. The popularity of Bose ~~existing~~ in India was attested by two Diet members, D. Takaoka and S. Katsumata who visited India last year. They said whenever they referred to Chandra Bose in their public speeches in India, the audience reacted with a thunderous applause. The Japanese Diet members were puzzled when they were asked so many questions about Bose by the people who still believe Bose is alive. It is even said that a Japanese visitor was beaten up by infuriated Bengalese youths when he casually told them Bose is already dead.

Three Reasons why Indians Believe that Bose is still alive

Regarding the undying belief among Indian people that Bose is alive, we may think of three background reasons.

The first is that the circumstances commonly given as relating to his death and the burial of his ashes at a temple in Tokyo (Renkoji Temple), still fail to convince many of Indians due to some ambiguities. An M. Nair an Indian resident in Tokyo is one of those who are sceptical about his death story. He points that stories given as eye-witnesses' accounts are not identical. It is thought strange that Col. Habi-Brahman, Bose's aide, boarding in the same plane with Bose sustained only minor injuries on his hands. It is also said that he did not <sup>while he could do so by</sup> try to identify the face of the burned body of Bose removing the white sheet which covered the body. His activities after returning home invited some suspicion. It is also said that he did not show the body of Bose to Deputy Commander Ayres who came to Taipeh on the following day of the accident. And it was also felt strange that no evidence of Bose's personal properties believedly existed was preserved.

According to <sup>the</sup> generally circulated story, the ashes and the jewels were passed on in the following manner. The ashes as well as the suit cases containing jewels handed over to Major Kinoshita of the General Headquarters by Lt. Col. Sakai and



Lieut. Hayashida who flew to Japan. These were again passed on to Lt. Col. Morio Takakura, chief of the 8th Section, 2nd Department, General Headquarters. It was September 7. On the following day or September 8, 1945, that these were personally handed over to Murti and two other Indians. Murti was the leader of the Tokyo Chapter of the Indian Independence League in Japan ~~and~~ at that time. But trouble is that there is no material evidence to show this and no receipts to confirm the dates of deliveries.

Murti brothers later bought two sedans and were seen riding about in them, seemingly leading quite a luxurious life. Later they were caught for illegal dealings in U.S. dollars. They are now back in India. In order to probe into the missing jewels, interrogation of Murti would be absolutely required. In this connexion Lt. Col. Takakura admits, "We thought we had taken <sup>as possible</sup> best measures ~~as~~ in our power in those turbulent days following the suicides <sup>of</sup> one by one of Army leaders, but since things have now turned out like this, it may be said that we should have been ~~even~~ more careful." (Nippon Times, Jan. 8) There exist no photographic records, receipts or any other ~~x~~ material evidences regarding these circumstances.

#### Bose makes Nehru Busy

The second reason why the "Bose-alive" story is so persistent is ascribed to the deep respect for Bose among Indians. For them, Bose is a demi-God. His spectacular exodus from India to Berlin and then his dramatic trip from Berlin to Tokyo in the World War II and his superior leadership of the Indian Independence Army up against the Anglo-Indian troops on the Burmese front firmly caught the minds of Indian masses so strongly that they have become to look upon him as a savior of their nation. ~~they expect to appear~~ <sup>Bose has before them when</sup> any critical moment of the country comes.



The third reason is related with the Indian Communist Party. The Communists in an attempt to undermine the strong popularity of Nehru by hook and crook may have strived to exploit the popularity of Chandra Bose and fanned up the popular rumour about Bose.

The landslide victory of a young Communist leader in the Calcutta by-election last year defeating Dr. R.B. Pal, the celebrated jurist of international fame, seemed to have resulted because of a story that Dr. Pal compromised with Nehru in pre-election promises. In Calcutta, the native place of Bose, the Communist propaganda that Dr. Pal ~~with Nehru~~ betrayed them in shaking hands with Nehru worked successfully to upset the voters support in favour of the young Communist leader.

Meantime it may be assumed that there exists dissatisfaction among the former men and officers of the Indian National Army with the "cold treatment" they are receiving under the Congress regime and these people may be naturally hoping to see Bose again.

Under these circumstances, it may be possible to think that Nehru thought it inadvisable to let the thing go as it stands and has decided to send an inquiry mission to Japan.

#### The Air Crash in Taipei Airfield

Summing up ~~the~~ press reports, the circumstances of the accidental death of Bose stand as follows:

It was August 17, 1945, two days after the Emperor's broadcast announcing capitulation of Japan that Chandra Bose accompanied by his aide Col. Habi-Brahman left the Saigon airport. The plane was a transport of KG-III type ~~remodelled~~ <sup>converted</sup> from a 97-2 Army heavy bomber. Boarding the plane were Lt. Gen. Tsunamasa Yotsuido, who was on transfer from Burma to Manchuria as deputy-chief of staff of the Kwantung Army, Lt. Col. Nonogaki (pilot), Lt. Col. Sakai, Major Takahashi, Major Kono, Major Takizawa, Lieutenant Arai, Warrant Officer Aoyagi



(co-pilot) and four other members of the crew.

The plane left Turan (Cochin-China) on the following dawn heading for Taipei. The plane reached Taipei airfield at noon. They took lunch there while the plane was being refuelled. At 2 P.M. it started for the Gannosu airfield in Kyushu. The plane taxied the runway without hitch and took to the air. In the matter of 20 seconds or so, the plane lost balance and suddenly nose-dived ~~into~~ onto the ground. The propellor on the left wing had ~~been~~ gone. The plane was instantly entrapped in flames as leaking fuel caught fire. Lt. Gen. Yotsuide, Major Takizawa and a non-commissioned officer were killed instantly. Others sustaining burn~~s~~ ~~however~~, managed to crawl out of the wreckage.

Bose suffered serious burning all over his body. He was taken to the Army Hospital by an ambulance for first aid treatment. About 30 surgeons attended the injured members. All possible medical treatment<sup>was</sup> ~~was~~ administered.

Surgeon Captain Yoshimi treated Bose whose hairs were all burnt. His face was swollen with burns. There was not in single spot on this body which was left unburned. His ~~clothes~~ <sup>clothes</sup> were of course burnt to shreds. It was diagnosed as third degree burning. So there was little hope for his survival. Captain Yoshimi announced that Bose might not live beyond that midnight. ~~Habib-Rahman~~ and Lt. Col. Honogami were informed about the condition of Bose. Blood transfusions, saline and camphor injections, and all possible medical treatments were administered in an desperate effort to save the life of the great Indian leader against the hopeless chance of his survival. It was 40 minutes past that midnight that the heart of the great man ceased to beat, drawing a curtain on the dramatic life of the beloved leader of India.

\*\*\*\*\*

W. K. Kavan



ASAHI EVENING 23/2/56

## Bose Claimed Alive in China

AFP

CALCUTTA, Feb. 23—Subhas Chandra Bose, India's wartime anti-allied leader, is alive and is forming an "Asian liberation army" wing in Sinkiang Province under the protection of the Chinese Communist authorities, one of Mr. Bose's lieutenants stated in Calcutta yesterday.

Mr. Bose's lieutenant, M. L. Thevar, deputy chairman of the "Forward Block Party" (founded by Mr. Bose) said he had met Mr. Bose during a visit to Burma.

He said the China-formed "Asian Liberation Army" was intended to free India from "Anglo-American domination." He said he had been in contact with Mr. Bose for the last seven years.





*Cyphar*  
*Sanjay Kumar*  
*2/14*  
D.O.No.F.30(26)-FEA/55.



10  
IMMEDIATE

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
NEW DELHI

(52) Dated the 19th March '56.

12K

Dear Mr. Dar,

A Committee of three persons appointed by the Government of India to investigate into the circumstances leading to the death of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose will be visiting Japan next month. The Committee will consist of Mr. Shah Nawaz Khan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport and formerly Major-General in the Indian National Army, as Chairman, Mr. Suresh Chandra Bose, brother of Netaji Bose and Mr. S.N. Maitra, I.C.S., Chief Commissioner, Andamans, as members.

The Committee will start functioning in Delhi with effect from the 29th March, 1956, and after a brief stay for a week or so in Delhi will proceed to Bangkok first, towards the end of the first week or beginning of the second week of April. From there it will go to Saigon and then reach Tokyo for completion of its investigation. We shall let you know the ~~date~~ *probable* date of their arrival there as soon as we are aware of it.

We shall be grateful if you will kindly make necessary arrangements for their accommodation at Tokyo and extend all assistance and facilities on their arrival there.

This letter is intended to give you only an advance intimation about their impending visit and further communication regarding their programme will follow as early as possible.

Yours sincerely,

*R.S. Chavan*

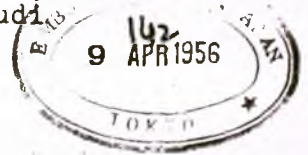
(R.S. Chavan)

Mr. A.I. Dar, I.F.S.,  
First Secretary,  
Embassy of India,  
Tokyo.

\*\*\*



Copy of letter dated 2nd April, 1956,  
from Shri Suresh C. Bose, 62, Pataudi  
House, New Delhi, addressed to the  
Prime Minister.



-----  
As a member of of "Netaji Enquiry Committee", I  
think the following items mentioned in brief among others  
need clarification:-

1. Terms of Reference. The External Affairs  
Department in their letter dated 3.2.56 to me have  
mentioned "--- circumstances of the disappearance of---"  
whereas the same department in their letter dated  
16-3-56 to me have stated "--- circumstanfes of the  
death of ---".

2. As regards the manner in which the enquiry would  
be made, I asked Shri Shah Nawaz Khan yesterday as to  
whether the enquiry should be open to the public or to  
the press or to both or whether it would be held in Camera.  
He replied that all Government of India enquiries are done  
secretly and only reports are made public.

3. Whether the itinerary of the "Enquiry Committee"  
will be decided by any party other than the Committee  
itself or by the Committee alone and which may be added,  
omitted or altered in accordance with the requirements  
suggested as the investigation proceeds.

4. Whether with regard to witnesses, documents,  
papers etc. necessary to be examined or inspected, the  
procedure mentioned in item No. 3 above will be followed  
or not.

5. With due respect to Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, I am of  
opinion that as this enquiry is more or less of a judicial  
nature and not appertaining to military matters, his  
position in the Committee as Chairman is not appropriate  
and because he does not appear to be in possession of  
much additional information, which would be helpful to the  
Committee regarding the places to be visited by us or  
regarding the subject matter of this enquiry.

6. It is considered important by me on behalf of



the Committee to know whether the name Netaji Subhas Chandra was and still is in the list of War Criminals drawn up by America and her allies. If his name still exists and if they request the Government of India to hand him over to them, if he be found on Indian soil, for being tried as a War Criminal, whether this Government will have the option of handing or not handing him over to them for the aforesaid purpose.

7. As I considered this Enquiry to be very important one and as it will be of great concern to millions of persons throughout the world, it requires mature deliberation and sound judgement. As such, it is my humble opinion that Dr. Radha Binode Pal be requested and persuaded to join the Committee & to lead it.

-----



(106)

The terms of reference of the Committee are to enquire into and to report to the Government of India on the circumstances concerning the departure of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose from Bangkok about the 16th August, 1945, his alleged death as a result of an aircraft accident and subsequent developments connected therewith.



(5)  
INCOMING

107  
C.S. No.47.

TELEGRAM: RESTRICTED. RES TED  
FROM: FOREIGN, NEW DELHI.  
TO: INEMBASSY, TOKYO.



D.T.O. APR 12 NIL.  
D.T.R. APR 13 0930.

APR 13 1943  
IMMEDIATE.

No.29317

Netaji Enquiry Committee would  
require services of one india based Stenographer  
at Tokyo. Request one Embassy Stenographer may be  
released and local man employed for Embassy work.  
Telegraph concurrence and cost of local recruit  
for one month.

Ambassador  
FS

RES



(36)

108

OUTGOING

C.S. No.35.

TELEGRAM: RESTRICTED.

~~RESTRICTED~~

FROM: EMBASSY, TOKYO.

TO: FOREIGN, NEW DELHI.



D.T.O. APR 161120.  
D.T.R. APR 161125.

IMMEDIATE.

No.35

8-55  
P107

Your telegram No.29317 12th.

India based stenographer for Netaji Enquiry Committee. Have enquired and find that owing language difficulty suitable English knowing stenographers not generally available locally. In any case foreign nationals could not be entrusted with this Embassy work. Strongly recommend Committee bringing own stenographer.

Ambassador  
FS

~~RESTRICTED~~



(51)  
INCOMING

(101)  
C.S. No.49.

O. T. P.

TELEGRAM:

SECRET.

FROM:

FOREIGN, NEW DELHI.

TO:

INDEMBASSY, TOKYO.



P.T.O. APR 161715.

D.T.R. APR 170930.

I M M E D I A T E .

No.28447

Addressed Tokyo Indembassy Bangkok  
Congendia Saigon.

NETAJI SUBHAS BOSE Enquiry Committee  
led by Shri. SHAHNAWAZ KHAN with Shri. S.C. BOSE  
and S.N. MAITRA as members accompanied by  
Shri. R. DAYAL Personal Assistant arriving Bangkok  
27th April at 3 30 a.m. (local time) by flight  
No. AI308. Departure Bangkok 30th April 1105 a.m.  
by Flight No. AF230. Arrival Saigon 1.10 p.m.  
30th April. Departure Saigon 4th May 8 45 a.m. by  
Flight No. AF 170. Arrival Tokyo 1035 p.m. same  
day. Proposed stay in Tokyo about one month.

2. Kindly book suitable accommodation  
for Chairman members and Personal Assistant.  
Embassy may kindly lend its staff car for use of  
members if available. Otherwise inexpensive alternative  
arrangements may be made.

3. Grateful if you could also lend one  
India-based stenographer and trusted interpreter  
during examination of witnesses.

4. List of witnesses to be examined will  
be telegraphed shortly.

5. Congendia Saigon kindly arrange visit  
to Touraine and back on 1st or 3rd May.

Ambassador

FS

~~SECRET~~

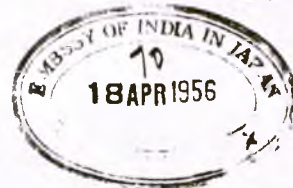


1581  
OUT GOING

1110  
C.S. No. 37

O.T.P.

~~SECRET.~~



TELEGRAM:

FROM:

EMBASSY, TOKYO.

TO:

FOREIGN, NEW DELHI.

P.T.O. APR 171240.  
P.T.R. APR 171245.

I M M E D I A T E .

No. 37

sl. 57  
p. 107

✓ sl. 56  
p. 108  
Your telegram No. 28447 April 16th paragraph 3. ✓ For reasons already clarified in our telegram No. 35 April 16th Netaji Enquiry Committee should bring full complement of stenographers from India. RAHMAN the only Indian in this Embassy who can work as Interpreter will be made available to Committee.

Ambassador  
FS



(59)  
N.E. 2(5) FFA/86 152  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.



New Delhi (3), the 11th April 1956.

Subject:- Committee to enquire into the Circumstances concerning the disappearance of Shri Subhash Chandra Bose.

Dear Embassy,

Forwarded herewith please find copies of papers noted on the margin for your information.

1. \*Question No. 670  
in LOK SABHA answered  
on 13-3-1956, along  
with the Answer.

2. Supplementary Question with answers  
to the above  
question.

Yours ever,  
Ministry.

The Embassy of India in  
Japan, TOKYO.



G.F. 7/4



LOK SABHA.

STARRED QUESTION NO. 670

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13TH MARCH, 1956.

COMMITTEE TO ENQUIRE INTO THE DEATH OF  
SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

QUESTION

\*No.670 SHRI KAMATH: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 13 on the 16th February, 1956 and state:

- (a) whether the composition of the Committee has been finalised;
- (b) if so, the names of the Members; and
- (c) when the Committee is expected to proceed on its mission?

\*\*\*\*\*

ANSWER

SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA.

D.M.

(a)(b)&(c). Yes. The Committee is expected to start work about the beginning of April. Its members are:

1. Shri Shah Nawaz Khan,  
Parliamentary Secretary to  
the Minister for Railways.
2. Shri Suresh Chandra Bose,  
elder brother of Shri  
Subhash Chandra Bose, and
3. Shri S.N. Maitra, I.C.S.,  
Chief Commissioner,  
Andamans.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*TANDON\*1003.

IS  
E-4

Q 670

Shri Kamath: Has the attention of Government been drawn to a suggestion made in the Bengal Press that Dr. Radha Binod Pal, former member of the International Military Tribunal in Tokyo, should have been invited or should be invited by Government to serve on this Committee?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru) Yes. We saw that. Dr. Radha Binod Pal is a very eminent person. But in this particular instance, it was thought that perhaps it would not be suitable for him to go there for this purpose. Apart from this, I believe that he is likely to be otherwise engaged.

Shri Kamath: Is this three-man Committee launching upon this inquiry with the conviction or even the presumption that Netaji is dead? Or has it got an open mind on this aspect of the matter?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Those people who have studied this matter are convinced of the fact of the death of Netaji.

But that does not mean that mind cannot be opened afresh, if necessary.

Shri Kamath: Will the Committee examine various persons who have made statements on this subject in recent weeks or even earlier in regard to the whereabouts or the existence of Netaji, in various parts of Asia? Will the the Committee also inquire into the identity of the person whose photograph was published in the Bengal Press some weeks ago, a Mongolian delegate? The



13  
E-5

670 Contd.

( Shri Kamath-Contd)

Prime Minister also admitted the resemblance to Ketaji.

And in view of the normal relations with Mongolia recently established.

Mr. Speaker: How many questions?

Shri Kamath; All right.

Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru: The Committee will work in close conjunction with representatives of the Japanese Government, and no doubt will draw up its own methods of procedure. I must say that the occasional statements that occur in newspapers are about as fantastic and as highly imaginative as any person can make them, and the story about some picture from Outer Mongolia resembling Ketaji- It is not for me to say no to anything is, I think, like talking about the moon being made of green cheese.

Shri Kamath: Now that we have happily established relations with Outer Mongolia, are we going to request the Government of Mongolia or of China, where the delegate was supposed to have gone in 1952, to co-operate with this inquiry?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: How do we co-operate? ~~wixxixix~~

I do not quite understand. Do we ask them to search all the monasteries in Outer Mongolia or in China or elsewhere? What is the basis for it, except that somebody says that from the photograph it appears to him that there is some resemblance?

Shri Kamath: This photograph was published in the Peking workers' press and not in India alone.

(Ends)



By diplomatic Bag.

(60)

No. 2897 JS (E)

115

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
NEW DELHI.

SECRET



18th April 1956.

Dear Mr. Sen,

The Netaji Enquiry Committee will be arriving in Tokyo on 4th May 1956. They wanted to visit Formosa in order to see the various sites (i.e. Taihoku, where the plane said to have carried Netaji crashed, etc.) and to examine some witnesses. The matter was referred to the Prime Minister and he has directed that it would be neither practicable nor advisable for them to go to Formosa as we do not recognise that Government and they are likely to put obstacles in the way of the Committee and even create difficulties and embarrassments.

2. The Committee are, however, likely to raise the issue with you again, and I suggest that, unless you see any strong reasons to the contrary, you may dissuade them from visiting Formosa.

Yours sincerely,

  
(T.N. Kaul)

Shri B.R. Sen, I.C.S.,  
Ambassador of India in Japan,  
TOKYO.





~~SECRET~~

By Diplomatic Bag.

No. 2896 JS (E) (115)

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
NEW DELHI.



18th April 1956.

Dear Mr. Sen,

I enclose a list of witnesses whom the Netaji Enquiry Committee wish to examine during the course of their stay in Japan between the 4th May and 3rd June 1956. They would be grateful if you would kindly inform the witnesses and call them in batches, according to convenience, on different working days. The first 13 have been mentioned in the Japanese Government's Report sent to us, while the 12 others have been added by the Committee themselves. If you wish to suggest any other names of persons who might be useful in throwing light on the subject, you may kindly inform the Committee about them.

Yours sincerely,

(T.N. Kaul)

Shri B.R. Sen, I.C.S.,  
Ambassador of India in Japan,  
TOKYO.

Enc:

<u>S.No.</u>	<u>Name of witness</u>	<u>Particulars as last known</u>
1.	Mr. Hachiya	Ambassador Designate to the Provisional Government of Azad Hind
2.	Col. S. Nonagaki	Who was the Staff Officer Headquarters of Air Forces in Java, is one of the survivors of the plane crash
3.	T. Yoshimi	Surgeon who attended Netaji in the Japanese Military Hospital, Taihoku
4.	T. Tsuruta	Army Surgeon, Namon Hospital, Taihoku
5.	K. Arai	Captain Headquarters Tsukasha Air Corps
6.	S. Takakura	Lt. Col. Staff Officer, Imperial Headquarters, Tokyo
7.	Shibuya	Lt. Col. Staff Officer, Army Forces, Formosa
8.	T. Sakai	Lt. Col. Staff Officer, Headquarters Army Forces, Burma
9.	M. Kinoshita	Major, Imperial Headquarters, Tokyo
10.	K. Sakai	Major, Battalion Commander, Taipeh Military Airport
11.	M. Nakamura	Captain In Charge, Taipeh Military Airport
12.	Hasegawa	Sub-Lt. Imperial Headquarters, Tokyo
13.	T. Hayashida	Sub-Lt. Headquarters, Army Forces in Formosa.

---

1.	Mr. Nakamura	Was an Interpreter from the Civil Govt. Office, Formosa. He had been in touch with Netaji on his previous visits to Formosa, en route to Japan
2.	Warrant Officer Nishi	Is said to have taken the Netaji's coffin to the Aerodrome at Taihoku for transportation to Japan, returned and said that the body should be cremated.
3.	Col. Miyata	Was a Staff Officer of General Ando, Commander, Japanese Garrison at Formosa. He is said to have brought gifts for the deceased in accordance with the Japanese custom.
4.	Second Lt. Aoyagi	
5.	Sergeant Major	Pilot of the plane which is alleged to have crashed
6.	Col. Yano	Who was Chief of the Second Section, Southern Army Headquarters, Saigon. He is said to have made certain statements before the British regarding Netaji's intentions.
7.	General Isoda	Chief of Hikari Kikan



8. Miss Chenpee Sha      Formosan nurse who was working in the Hospital at Taihoku
9. Mr. Watanabe      Who belonged to Hikari Kikan, Bangkok. He was an Interpreter
10. Lt. Hotata      Assistant Medical Officer who kept in Yoshimi at Taihoku, is said to have treated Netaji
11. Capt. Yoshida      Of Japanese Air Force, probably attached to Air Headquarters, Saigon
12. Capt. Kiano      of Hikari Kikan.

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(62)  
INCOMING



O. T. P.

TELEGRAM: CONFIDENTIAL.  
FROM: FOREIGN, NEW DELHI.  
TO: INDETBASSY, TOKYO.

D.T.O. APR 25 NIL.  
D.T.R. APR 26 0930.

I M M E D I A T E .

No.25146

Addressed Tokyo repeated Shri. SHAH NAWAZ KHAN  
care Chief Secretary Calcutta.

Your telegram No.35 of 16th April.  
Netaji Enquiry Committee authorised to engage  
local stenographer. Kindly secure services of  
one stenographer after committee's arrival.  
Letter follows.

---

Ambassador

FS

CONFIDENTIAL





(63)

1120  
EMBASSY OF INDIA IN JAPAN  
TOKYO

No. 5(1)NGO-I.


the 27th April, 1956.

Subject:- Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose  
Enquiry Committee.

Dear Mr. Hattori,

With reference to our personal discussion of 26th April, I enclose herewith in duplicate a list of persons whom the Committee would like to meet and interview in connection with the subject enquiry. In case the Committee desire to meet any other person, you will of course be requested for the necessary facilities and arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

  
(A.K. Dar)

Mr. Hisaji Hattori,  
Chief of the 4th Section,  
Asian Affairs Bureau,  
Gaimusho, Tokyo.

*H on file 12*  
*cy Anil 7/12*  
*28/4*



6, Clive Row,  
 Calcutta  
 23rd April 1956.

Dear Mr. Sen,

The Delegation appointed to investigate into the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose will be arriving in Tokyo on May 2nd.

Major General Shah Nawaj is in Calcutta now taking evidence and I met him. He is anxious to meet the Mayor of Taipeh of Formosa who may be in Tokyo at the time as it is likely that he will be attending the Asian Mayors Conference which is being held in Tokyo between May 2nd & May 12. Major General Shah Nawaj has requested me to help him in establishing contact with the Mayor of Taipeh and I have written to the Managing Director of the Mitsui Steamship Co, to try and help him in this connection. He also requires an English Steno-Typist who will be able to keep record and evidence that they will be taken. I suppose they will be contacting as soon as they arrive and you will be able to find out and do all that is possible for them.

With my kindest regards to you and Mrs. Sen.

Yours sincerely,

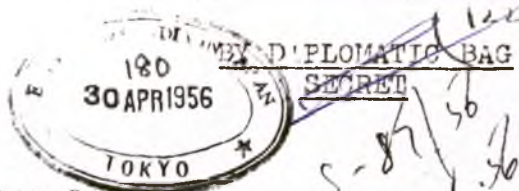
*(Signature)*  
 (NARESH NATH MOOKERJEE)

His Excellency B.R. Sen,  
 Indian Ambassador to Japan,  
 Indian Embassy,  
 Tokyo, Japan.



CyAse and  
20/4

(65)



No. F.71(A)1/Per-C/56  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

NEW DELHI, THE 24th APRIL, 1956.

EXPRESS LETTER

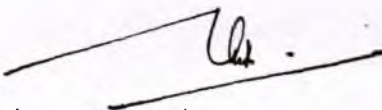
FROM: FOREIGN, NEW DELHI.

TO: EMBASSY, TOKYO.

✓ 4 56  
11/08

Reference your telegram No. 35, dated April 16th regarding India-based stenographer for Netaji Enquiry Committee.

In addition to the one stenographer being taken from India, the Committee is being authorised to hire such local stenographic assistance as may be necessary and available. You are, therefore, requested kindly to locate a suitable local stenographer for engagement by the Committee on arrival. To the extent that the needs of the Committee are not entirely met by the India-based stenographer accompanying them and by such local help as may be available, it is hoped that the Embassy will give as much assistance as possible.

  
(INDER SEN)  
UNDER SECRETARY.

(166) (123)  
SHAH NAWAZ KHAN,  
Chairman, Netaji Enquiry Committee,

14 MAY 1956  
Care Indian Embassy,  
Tokyo,  
Dated the 11th May '56.

My dear Dar,

In addition to the list of witnesses already sent to you, the Committee would like to examine the following witnesses for whom the Japanese Foreign Office may please be approached to make them available for examination by the Committee:-

1. Mr. Okshita, who was the navigator of the plane which is alleged to have been crashed at Taihoku. He is one of the survivors.
2. Major Kojima, He was a Staff officer at Saigon and is said to have made arrangements for Netaji's journey from Saigon onwards.
3. Japanese nurses who were on duty in the Nanmon Hospital when Netaji was brought there.

/Taihoku, Taiwan

Yours sincerely,

*Shah Nawaz Khan*  
(SHAH NAWAZ KHAN)

Shri A.K.Dar,  
First Secretary,  
Indian Embassy,  
TOKYO.



(124)  
May 14, 1956

Dear Mr. Hattori,

The Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Enquiry  
Commission is anxious to examine the following witnesses :-

1. Mr. Okshita, who was the Navigator of the plane which is alleged to have ~~been~~ crashed at Taihoku. He is one of the survivors.
2. Major Kojima. He was a Staff Officer at Saigon and is said to have made arrangements for Netaji's journey from Saigon onwards.
3. Japanese nurses who were on duty in the Nanmon Hospital, Taihoku, Taiwan when Netaji was brought there.

I would be grateful if arrangements could kindly be made for the persons above-mentioned to meet the Commission.

Yours sincerely,

*AKD*

( A.K.Dar )

Mr. Hisaji Hattori,  
Chief of the 4th Section,  
Asian Affairs Bureau,  
Gaimusho, Tokyo.



EMBASSY OF INDIA IN JAPAN  
TOKYO

Dated the 18th May 1956.

Dear Shri Sen,

(Chief of Mission)  
Tokyo  
Japn

The Netaji Enquiry Committee has before it some evidence that the aeroplane carrying Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose crashed at Taihoku air-field in Taiwan (Formosa) and that his body was cremated there. In order to examine Formosan witnesses and to visit the alleged place of occurrence, the Committee had, before leaving Delhi, enquired about the possibility of visiting Formosa and had written to Shri Dutt, Foreign Secretary. His reply dated 18th April (copy enclosed) was not very favourable. Since then, the Committee has examined a number of witnesses in Japan and feel that it would be very desirable to pay a visit to Formosa if it is at all possible. The Japanese Foreign Office have been helping the Committee in its work in every way and it may be presumed that they would be helpful if a proposal for the Committee's visit to Formosa is made to them. At a small party given by Mr. Hattori and others of the Foreign Office, this matter was brought up informally and Mr. Hattori gave me to understand that such a request if made to them, they would be willing to use their good offices with the Taiwan authorities. The Committee has another 2 weeks in Japan and would be obliged if the possibility of paying a visit to Formosa is further examined to enable them to do so during this time.

Shri B.R. Sen,  
Ambassador of India in Japan,  
Tokyo.  
Encl:1

Yours sincerely,

Shah Nawaz Khan  
(SHAH NAWAZ KHAN)



(126)

Secret.

FS/407

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
NEW DELHI.

April 18, 1956.

Dear Shri Shah Nawaz Khan,

Will you please refer to your D.O. No. PS/56/N of 10th April? As you are aware, we have no diplomatic relations with the Formosan Government, nor do we recognise them. It is unlikely that they will give any facilities to an Enquiry Committee appointed by the Government of India in this matter. It is even possible that they would put obstacles in the way of the Committee, and create difficulties and complications which would hinder rather than help the work of the Committee. In these circumstances, we do not think that it would be practicable or advisable for the Committee to go to Formosa.

Yours sincerely,

Sd.S. Dutt.  
Foreign Secretary.

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan,  
Chairman,  
Netaji Enquiry Committee,  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
New Delhi.

~~SECRET~~ (69)

O.T.P.

C.S. No.44.

TELEGRAM: SECRET. **OUTGOING**  
FROM: EMBASSY, TOKYO.  
TO: FOREIGN, NEW DELHI.

D.T.O. MAY 191730.  
D.T.R. MAY 191740.

IMMEDIATE.

No.44

PUTT from SEN.

sl 68  
P 125-126

In a confidential letter to me today the Netaji Enquiry Committee states " The Committee has examined a number of witnesses in Japan and feel that it would be very desirable to pay a visit to Formosa if it is at all possible. The Japanese Foreign Office have been helping the Committee in its work in every way and it may be presumed that they would be helpful if a proposal for the Committee's visit to Formosa is made to them. At a small party given by Mr. Hattori Chief of the Asian Desk and others of the Foreign Office, this matter was brought up informally and Mr. Hattori gave me to understand that such a request if made to them, they would be willing to use their good offices with the Taiwan authorities. The Committee has another 2 weeks in Japan and would be obliged if the possibility of paying a visit to Formosa is further examined to enable them to do so during this time". The position appears to be that the Japanese Government will not give any definite undertaking to move in the matter without a definite proposal either from the Committee or from the Embassy and neither of us can make such a request without Government approval in view of Putt's letter to the Committee dated April 18th. I have today explained to the Committee the further deterioration in the relations between India and Formosa over Formosa's disruption of diplomatic relations with Egypt but feel that if this approach by the Committee is peremptorily dismissed the Committee will have a grievance which may make their whole report infructuous in the eyes of some sections of our people. In my view therefore the Committee should be permitted to approach the Japanese Government for their good offices in the matter even if Embassy keeps out of it.

Please place this before Prime Minister.

Ambassador  
FS

~~SECRET~~





No. PS/56/NEC.

EMBASSY OF INDIA IN JAPAN  
TOKYO

Dated the 23rd May 1956.

My dear Dar,

In addition to the list of witnesses already sent to you, we would like to examine the following, for whom the Japanese Foreign Office may please be approached to make them available for examination by the Committee:-

- (1) Lt. General Isayama, Chief of General Staff, Formosa Army in 1945.
- (2) Buddhist Priest at Taihoku who is reported to have held the funeral ceremony of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at Taihoku in August 1945.
- (3) Kazuo Mitsui (Address: No. 15, Nishihata-cho, Wakamatsu City, Fukuoka-Ken), a soldier at Taihoku in August 1945, who claims to be present at the time of death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

From the evidence of Dr. Yoshimi, names of the Japanese nurses which were not available to us when I wrote to you on the 11th May, are now available. These are:-

- (4) Nakano, Ohama, Tomimoto and Nishimoto.

These names may kindly be communicated to the Japanese Foreign Office for tracing them.

Yours sincerely,

(SHAH NAWAZ KHAN)

Shri A.K. Dar,  
First Secretary,  
Indian Embassy,  
Tokyo.

May 23,

Dear Mr. Hattori,

In addition to the lists of witnesses sent to you previously the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Enquiry Commission is anxious to secure evidence from the following persons also :-

1. Lt. General Isayama, Chief of General Staff, Formosa Army in 1945.
2. Buddhist Priest at Taihoku who is reported to have conducted the funeral ceremony for Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at Taihoku in August, 1945.
3. Kazuo Mitsui (Address: No.15, Nishihata-cho, Wakamatsu City, Fukuoka-ken), a soldier at Taihoku in August 1945, who claims to have been present at the time of the reported death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

As item (3) in my letter of May 14th we have requested for the attendance of Japanese nurses who were on duty in the Nanmon Hospital, Taihoku, Taiwan when Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was reportedly brought there. Dr. Yoshimi has now informed the Committee of the names of these nurses. The names as given are :-

- (a) Nakano,
- (b) Ohama,
- (c) Tomimoto, and
- (d) Nishimoto.

I would be grateful if you could kindly make arrangements for the persons listed above to meet the Commission at mutual convenience.

Yours sincerely,

*A.K. Dar*

( A.K.Dar )

Mr. Hisaji Hattori,  
Chief of the 4th Section,  
Asian Affairs Bureau,  
Gaimusho, Tokyo.



(72)  
INCOMING

C.S. No. 66.

O. T. P.

TELEGRAM: SECRET. ~~SECRET~~  
FROM: FOREIGN, NEW DELHI.  
TO: AMEMBASSY, TOKYO.



D.T.O. MAY 221400.  
D.T.R. MAY 230930.

IMMEDIATE.

No. 28407

Ambassador from KAU. <sup>8/69</sup><sub>P. 127</sub>

Your telegram No. 44 of 19th May. Matter has been placed before Prime Minister. We had made it clear to Committee in Delhi that it would not be practicable or advisable for them to visit Formosa. The only possible advantage of going there might have been to see entries in hospital registers. At that time the hospital was run by the Japanese and all the Japanese must have come away. There can be no first hand evidence available there. It is conceivable however that some entries in the hospital registers might give some further information. We would like you to suggest to the Committee that you may on their behalf request the Japanese Government to ask their Ambassador in Formosa to be good enough to see the hospital entries and ~~transmit~~<sup>Secure</sup> certified copies. At the Committee's request we had approached U.K. High Commission here to get this information for us but have not had a reply yet. The Japanese Ambassador in Formosa would be in a better position to handle this matter than the British who have only a Consul.

2. We have considered the matter again and are not in favour of the Committee visit to Formosa. Japan's good offices may enable Committee to land there but it is unlikely that the Formosan Government will give any facilities. In fact that they may put obstacles and suggest degrading conditions. Apart to this politically this will be very embarrassing for us and might lead to complicating situations. If the Committee feels that there may be some public criticism here later they are at liberty to state if necessary that the Ministry of External Affairs advised them against a visit to Formosa.

Ambassador

FS

SECRET

(93)

SECRET

F.5(1)NGO-I

May 25, 1956

To

The Chairman,  
Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Enquiry Committee,  
Tokyo.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 18th May, 1956, to Ambassador Sen regarding the visit of the Committee to Formosa, I am desirous to say that the contents of your letter were conveyed to the Government of India with the request that the matter may be placed before the Prime Minister. The Ministry of External Affairs have replied vide their telegram of May 22nd that as had already been mentioned to the Commission at Delhi it would neither be advisable nor practicable to visit Formosa. The Ministry of External Affairs have added that the hospital concerned in Formosa was being run by the Japanese all of whom would have left Formosa by now and no first hand evidence would be available in Formosa under the circumstances. The Ministry of External Affairs feel, however, that there might be entries in hospital registers at Formosa which would be relevant and these may be obtained through the Japanese Government by arranging for the Japanese Ambassador in Formosa to make certified copies of the entries and send them to this Embassy for handing over to the Commission.

Cancelled.  
Read. Sl. 76  
p. 134

2. The Ministry of External Affairs feel strongly that any attempt to visit Formosa may well turn out to be embarrassing all round and lead to frustrating complications without any advantage for the Commission. [Under the circumstances I am to request for advice of the further action desired in the matter of securing authenticated copies of the entries in the hospital registers at Formosa.]

3. This letter has been written in the absence of the Ambassador and if the Commission so desire confirmation of the above reply from the Ministry of External Affairs can be secured when the Ambassador returns to Tokyo.

Yours faithfully,

*A.K. Dar*

( A.K. Dar )  
First Secretary



(14)  
INCOMING

C.S. No. 70.

132

O. T. P.

~~SECRET~~

TELEGRAM: SECRET.

FROM: FOREIGN, NEW DELHI.

TO: INTERBUREAU, TOKYO.

D.T.O. MAY 241330.

T.T.R. MAY 250930.

IMMEDIATE.

No. 28409

Ambassador from PAUL.

8172  
p. 130

Reference my telegram No. 28407 of 22nd May. U.K. High Commission have just informed us that their Consul in Taipeh has telegraphed that Formosa authorities are willing to allow to 5 Chinese whose names were given by Committee to be examined by British Consul in the presence of Formosa officials. They are however not prepared to let them go to Hongkong to appear before our Committee. British Consul would like to have names in Chinese of the witnesses and the corresponding files reference.

2. He did not mention anything about the entries in the crematorium register and is being reminded about it.

3. Formosa authorities' refusal to allow witnesses to go to Hongkong is significant. It is possible that they may possess their witnesses and make them give wrong statements which may only complicate the work of the Committee. Our opinion therefore that Committee should not visit Formosa is confirmed. Please consult and ask them whether they would still like British Consul in Formosa to examine Chinese witnesses. Our advice would be that you should wait till you hear from the Japanese authorities in response to your approach.

\* Gp. Corrupt.

By Change.

stone

Ambassador

FS

~~SECRET~~

at least  
if the  
remini  
had not  
before  
after

(15)

(133)

~~SECRET~~

F.5(1)NGO-I

May 26,

6

To

The Chairman,  
Netaji Enquiry Committee,  
Tokyo.

Dear Sir,

SL-73  
P 131/2

In continuation of my letter No. F.5(1)NGO-I dated the 24th May, 1956, I am desirous to inform you on the authority of telegraphic advice received vide telegram dated May 24th from the Ministry of External Affairs that in response to the request from the Government of India to the authorities in Formosa, through the U.K. Government, to allow five Chinese, whose names were furnished by the Commission, to proceed to Hong Kong for giving evidence to the Commission; the Formosa authorities have replied that they are not willing to allow the persons to leave Formosa but would be willing to allow these Chinese to give evidence to the British Consul at Formosa in the presence of Formosan officials. In case the Commission would like to obtain the statements of the Chinese in Formosa in the above manner I am to request for the full names in Chinese of the witnesses concerned.

2. I am to say further that the Government of India have not heard as yet from the U.K. authorities about the entries in the crematorium registers and the British Consul at Formosa is being reminded in the matter.

3. The Government of India feel, I am to add, that this attitude of the Formosa authorities in refusing the Chinese witnesses to give evidence to the Commission directly at Hong Kong is indicative of what may be expected. However, if the Commission would like the British Consul at Formosa to record the evidence of the relevant witnesses under the conditions stipulated by the Formosa authorities the Government of India would consider arranging for the same. The Government feel, nevertheless, that the Committee may consider it desirable to defer this matter until after some indication is available of the attitude of the Formosa authorities to the suggestion of Government conveyed in my previous letter of May 25th that the Japanese Ambassador at Formosa be asked to obtain certified copies of the entries in the hospital registers for transmission to the Commission. I would, under the circumstances, be grateful for advice of the decision arrived at by the Commission on paragraph 2 of my letter of May 25th enquiring whether the Embassy should now approach the Gaimusho formally for securing through the Japanese Ambassador at Formosa authenticated copies of the entries in the hospital registers at Formosa.

Yours faithfully,

*A.K. Dar*

( A.K. Dar )  
First Secretary



(76)

F.5(1)NGO-I

(134)

~~SECRET~~

May 28,

6

To

The Chairman,  
Netaji Enquiry Committee,  
Tokyo.

Dear Sir,

I am desired to say that the Ambassador has on return to Tokyo confirmed the contents of my two letters both bearing reference No. F.5(1)NGO-I and dated May 25th and 26th, 1956, respectively with the following modification.

Paragraph 2 of my letter of May the 25th, 1956, may kindly be cancelled and substituted by a fresh paragraph 2 as given below :-

"The Ministry of External Affairs feel after reconsideration of the matter that they would not be in favour of the Commission visiting Formosa. The Ministry of External Affairs feel that even if the good offices of Japan enable the Commission to proceed to Formosa it is not likely that the Formosan Government would extend any facilities and in fact they may well put obstacles in the way and stipulate degrading conditions. The Ministry feel further that it would be politically embarrassing and might lead to complicating situations. The Ministry advise that if the Commission feels that there would be public criticism later the Commission is at liberty to say, if necessary, that the Ministry of External Affairs advised against a visit to Formosa. Under the circumstances I am to request for advice of the further action desired in the matter of securing authenticated copies of the entries in the hospital registers at Formosa."

Yours faithfully,

(A.K.)  
( A.K.Dar )  
First Secretary



SHAH NAWAZ KHAN, M.P.,  
Chairman, Netaji Enquiry Committee,



EMBASSY OF INDIA IN JAPAN  
TOKYO

Tokyo, Dt. the 26th May '56.

Dear Shri Dar,

I am given to understand that one Col. Figges was deputed by the British Government soon after the end of the last war to go to Formosa and make certain enquiries relating to the alleged plane crash in which Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was involved. I believe Col. Figges is now posted in Tokyo as Military Secretary in the British Embassy. The Committee would very much like to meet him and record his evidence. The Committee appreciates that without the permission from his own Government, it would not be possible for Col. Figges to appear before the Committee. I would, therefore, request you to take necessary steps for securing permission for Col. Figges from his ~~own~~ Government to appear before the Committee.

Yours faithfully,

*Shahnawaz Khan*  
(SHAH NAWAZ KHAN)

Shri A.K. Dar,,  
First Secretary,  
Indian Embassy,  
Tokyo.



-COPY<sup>2</sup>



CONFIDENTIAL.

No. PS/56/NEC

Dated the 29th May, 1956

{ Original Copy.  
Forwarded  
to the Min.  
Dear Mr. Sen,

Our Committee has seen the two letters from Dar (Nos. F5(1)NGO-I, dated the 25th and 26th of May 1956), regarding the evidence in Formosa. It is noted that the Government of India are not in favour of the Committee paying a visit to Formosa. It is also noted that the authorities in Formosa are not willing to allow the evidence of Formosan witnesses to be recorded outside that Island. In the circumstances, the Committee has no option but to agree to the only method by which evidence of Formosan witnesses is likely to be obtained. Arrangements may please be made to have the statements of Formosan witnesses recorded, as suggested, by the British Consul General and make them available to the Committee either during their return to India, Care of the Ministry of External Affairs. In this connection, it is suggested that a hint, if there is no objection, may be given to the British Consul in Formosa that while a Chinese official might be present during examination of Formosan witnesses by the Consul, the latter would no doubt make sure that the witnesses speak their mind openly. It would be appreciated if 4 copies of the statement in English, duly authenticated by the British Consul, are forwarded to this Committee.

We have been asked to supply Chinese names in full of the Formosan witnesses. We have only got the names through non-Chinese sources and can give them as we have received. The names of the Formosan witnesses together with some indication of the points on which they might give evidence, are given in the attached note.

As for the entries in the hospital and crematorium registers, it is a matter of convenience whether they are obtained through the British Consul or

the Japanese Ambassador in Formosa. The Committee would have no objection if the latter channel is used.

The papers concerned are three :-

1. The doctor's report regarding the alleged death of Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose at Nanmon Military Hospital Taihoku (Taipeh) on or about the 18th August, 1945.
2. The police report on the same subject.
3. The cremation permit issued by the Bureau of Health and Hygiene, Taihoku (Taipeh) on or about the 20th of August, 1945.

It may please be ascertained whether such records are available. If they are, it is requested that relevant extracts made from them on proper authentication and four copies of the same together with certified English translations may kindly be made available to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/- SHAH NAWAZ KHAN

Shri. B.R. Sen,  
Ambassador for India in Japan,  
Tokyo.

Encl:1.



Points for the British Consul in Taiwan.

The Government of India have appointed a Committee to enquire into the alleged death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, with the following terms of reference:-

" To enquire into and to report to the Government of India on the circumstances concerning the departure of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose from Bangkok about the 16th August 1945, his alleged death as a result of an aircraft accident and subsequent developments connected therewith."

Some witnesses have deposed to the Committee that Mr. Bose met with an air accident at Taihoku (Taipeh) airfield on the 18th August, 1945, and that he was admitted to the Nanmon Military Hospital where he is said to have expired the same night. It is said that his body was cremated at Taihoku City crematorium on the 20th August. There are some witnesses in Formosa who may be able to give evidence on the following points. Their names as obtained from Indian sources are given below and may not be wholly accurate. It is also regretted that their present addresses are not known to the Committee. In tracing these witnesses, it might be of advantage to contact the following gentlemen noted\* on the margin\*

\*Mr. Huang,  
Supdt. of Police,  
Taipeh

Mr. S.P. Chun, Secy.  
to the Commissioner  
of Police, Formosa.

Mr. Chung Yung-kai,  
Office of the Governor  
General of Formosa.

1. Nurse Tsan Pi Sha (nurse in Nanmon Military Hospital, Taihoku (Taipeh) in August, 1945.

This witness might testify regarding the entry of Mr. Bose and his Adjutant, Col. Habibur Rehman, into the Nanmon Military Hospital, their treatment there, the last hours of Mr. Bose, his death, keeping the body in the hospital and its removal later on.

2. Miss Chu Chow Tse, nurse Nanmon Military Hospital.

This witness is said to have been on leave during that time but might have heard of the story.

3. Dr. Kan King-yen, Present, Bureau of Health of Hygiene, Taihoku (Taiph) in August 1945.

This witness might give evidence regarding maintenance of record in the Bureau, particularly of the certificate for the alleged cremation of Mr. Bose's body.

4 and 5. Mr. Li Chin Kui and Mr. Tan Chi Ch, Clerks in the Bureau of Health and Hygiene, Taihoku (Taiph) in August 1945.

These witnesses are said to have issued a certificate of cremation in respect of the body of Mr. Bose after reading the relevant medical reports from Nanmon Military Hospital and Police report regarding the death. They are also said to have seen the body which was identified by some Japanese officer. These witnesses might testify regarding the certificates, namely, the doctor's certificate and cremation certificate. If there be any wrong entries in any one or all the certificates, they might be able to give reasons for the same.

6. Mr. Chu Tsung, In Charge, Taihoku City Government Crematorium.

This witness may be able to testify as to who brought the body of Mr. Bose to the crematorium, who identified it, how was the actual burning conducted, and who took delivery of the ashes.



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(140)

No. F.5(1)NGO-I

(79)

May 30, 1956

Dear Mr. Selby,

In confirmation of our telephone conversation yesterday, this is to request for advice of the procedure that may be adopted in securing the evidence of Col. J.G. Figgess for the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Enquiry Commission, which has been set up by the Government of India and is presently in Japan. As already mentioned to you the Commission is most anxious to ascertain from Col. Figgess any information that he may have on the subject matter for which the Enquiry Commission has been set up by the Government of India. I enclose herewith a copy of the terms of reference for this Commission.

Yours sincerely,

*AKD*

( A.K.Dar )

R.W. Selby Esquire,  
Counsellor & Head of Chancery,  
British Embassy,  
Tokyo.

Encl: 1.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

F.5(1)NGO-I

May 30,

6

Dear Mr. Hattori,

The Netaji Enquiry Commission is anxious to secure copies of the entries relating to the treatment etc. of Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose at the Nanmon Military Hospital Taihoku (Taipeh). In particular the Committee would very much like to have copies of the following three papers or documents :-

- (i) The doctor's report regarding the death of Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose at Nanmon Military Hospital, Taihoku (Taipeh) on or about the 18th August, 1945.
- (ii) The police report, if any, on the same subject.
- (iii) The cremation permit issued by the Bureau of Health and Hygiene, Taihoku (Taipeh) on or about the 20th of August, 1945.

2. It is not known to this Embassy if the relevant hospital registers and the originals of the three documents above listed are available but we would be most grateful for the good offices of the Gaimusho in kindly securing authentic copies of available relevant records. Perhaps the securing of the copies may take a little time but the Embassy would very much appreciate urgent advice about the prospect of getting these copies through the good offices of the Government of Japan.

Yours sincerely,

Atul

( A.K.Dar )

Mr. H. Hattori,  
Chief of the 4th Section,  
Asian Affairs Bureau,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Government of Japan,  
Tokyo.



~~SECRET~~

( 81 )



No. F.5(1)NGO-I

May 29, 1956

Dear Mr. Kaul,

With reference to your telegrams Nos. 28407 of May 22nd, 1956 and 28409 of May 24th, 1956 to the Ambassador, I am desirous to enclose herewith a copy (signed) of letter No. PS/56/NEC dated the 29th May, 1956, from the Chairman of the Enquiry Commission to the Ambassador, for your further action.

Also forwarded are my letters of the 25th and 26th May, 1956, referred to in the letter from the Chairman of the Commission. These letters were based on your two telegrams cited above. On his return from tour the Ambassador wanted some amendment to be made to my first letter of May 25th. The amendment was accordingly made vide my letter of May 28th, 1956, of which also a copy is forwarded herewith. Although the members of the Commission were shown your telegrams it was not considered desirable to hand over the full texts of the two telegrams to the Commission.

We are approaching the Gaimusho to secure certified copies of entries in the hospital registers through the Japanese Ambassador to Formosa and the result will be communicated to you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

*A.K. Dar*

( A.K. Dar )

Shri T.N. Kaul, ICS,  
Joint Secretary,  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
New Delhi.

Encls:

THE GAIMUSHO

(82)



June 14, 1956

Dear Mr. Dar,

With reference to your letter No. F.5(1)NGO-1 of May 30, 1956, requesting for copies of the entries relating to the treatment etc. of Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, I wish to inform you that the following reply was made by the Chief of Operation Section, Repatriation and Relief Bureau, Ministry of Welfare, to our enquiry on this matter:

"In spite of the thorough investigations made on the files of Doctor's Reports, Karte and Death Certificates, which had been transferred from the former Taipeh Army Hospital to this Bureau for custody, no record on Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose as required in the official note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs could be found out."

I wish to add that the matter was referred to the Embassy of Japan in Taipeh also for further investigation.

Sincerely yours,

*Hisaji Hattori*

Hisaji Hattori  
Chief of 4th Section  
Asian Affairs Bureau  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. A. K. Dar  
First Secretary  
Embassy of India  
Tokyo



(83)

INCOMING



C.S. No. 103.

TOKYO

~~SECRET~~

TELEGRAM: SECRET.

FROM: FOREIGN, NEW DELHI.

TO: INDEMBASSY, TOKYO.

D.T.O. JUL 031600.

D.T.R. JUL 040930.

I M M E D I A T E .

No. 28424

For Ambassador.

Reference our telegram No. 28407 of 22nd May. As Enquiry Committee is about to conclude its report grateful if you would kindly enquire from Japanese Government whether they have received any report from their Ambassador in Formosa regarding hospital entries and other records concerning Netaji.

Ambassador  
FB

~~SECRET~~

81.72  
P.13012

(84)  
CONFIDENTIAL

No. F.5(1)NGO-I

(145)  
July 4, 1956

Dear Mr. Hattori,

✓ d. 80 / p. 143/c.  
✓ sl. 82 / p. 143/c.  
Please refer to my letter No. F.5(1)NGO-I of May 30th, 1956, and your interim reply of June the 14th, 1956, regarding the securing of copies of the hospital and crematorium records relating to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The Netaji Enquiry Commission is most anxious to have the final reply of your Embassy at Taipei. I would accordingly be grateful for urgent advice whether it has been possible for your Embassy to locate the required records and if authenticated copies thereof could be supplied for the Netaji Enquiry Commission and if not, advice of the present status of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

AKD  
( A.K.Dar )

Mr. H. Hattori,  
Chief of the 4th Section,  
Asian Affairs Bureau,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Tokyo.



(85)

146

INCOMING



O. T. P.

TELEGRAM: SECRET.

**SECRET**

FROM: FOREIGN, NEW DELHI.

TO: INDEMBASSY, TOKYO.

D.T.O. JUL. 12 NIL.  
D.T.R. JUL. 130930.

I M M E D I A T E .

No.4652

DAR. MAITRA NETAJI Enquiry Committee to

<sup>For</sup>  
For our report obliged if four  
copies each post card size photograph following  
gentlemen obtained and sent earliest.

1. T. HACHIYA 370 Marounouchi Building,
2. Reverend MOCHIZUKI, Renkoji Temple and
3. Lt. Col. T. SAKAI address known to  
Gaimusho.

Ambassador

FS

**SECRET**

Dear Mr. Iwama,

July 16, 1956

In confirmation of my telephonic request of the 14th July, 1956, this is to advise that the Netaji Enquiry Committee has asked for six post-card size photographs of the following persons who had given evidence before the Enquiry Committee :-

1. Mr. T. Hachiya, formerly Minister of Japan to the Azad Hind Government.
2. Former Lt.Col. T. Sakai of Army Headquarters Burma.
3. Rev. Mochizuki, Chief Priest of the Renkoji Temple.

It seems that the Enquiry Committee did not secure the photographs of these gentleman initially and the Committee is most anxious to have them now. I would be accordingly be grateful for your good offices in kindly arranging for these photographs and having them sent to this Embassy along with the bill of cost.

Yours sincerely,

  
( A.K.Dar ) -

Mr. T. Iwama,  
Asian Affairs Bureau,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Government of Japan,  
Tokyo.



THE GAIMUSHO



July 24, 1956

Dear Mr. Dar,

With reference to your letter No. F.5(1)NGO-I of July 16, 1956, addressed to Mr. Iwama, I enclose herewith six copies each of photographs of Messrs. Hachiya, Sakai and Mochizuki.

Yours sincerely,

*Hisaji Hattori*

Hisaji Hattori  
Chief of 4th Section  
Asian Affairs Bureau  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. A. K. Dar  
First Secretary  
Embassy of India  
Tokyo

N.B. Bill of cost claimed by Mr. S. Matsuda of this Section is attsched herewith enclosed.

Detached and handed over  
to Accts. Sectn.

*lms*  
*26/7*

BY AIR MAIL  
BY BAG

CONFIDENTIAL

(88)

144

No. F.5(1)NGO-I

July 24, 1956

My dear Mr. Maitra,

✓ sl. 85  
p. 146/c.

With reference to your telegram No. 4652 of July 12th, 1956, I am sending herewith by air mail three photographs each of Mr. Hachiya, Rev. Mochizuki and Col. T. Sakai which were received through the Gaimusho only this afternoon. To allow for any losses occurring in the postal system three additional copies of each will be sent by the next bag to Delhi.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

RH

( A.K.Dar )

Shri S.N. Maitra, ICS,  
Secretary,  
Netaji Enquiry Committee,  
New Delhi.

Encls:



No. F.5(1)NGO-I

July 25, 1956

My dear

4  
p-151-155/c

I enclose herewith letter dated the 11th July, 1956, from Mr. Sankaysu Kobayashi in original in the Japanese language. Also attached is an English translation of the letter which has been made at the Embassy. After going through the letter I feel that Mr. Kobayashi is completely confused and is mixing up Rashbehari Bose with Subhas Chandra Bose as it was Rashbehari Bose who had married into the Soma family in Japan.

2. I would suggest that if you agree the disability certificate in Japanese marked "A" in red pencil might be returned to Mr. Kobayashi as it would perhaps be useful to him.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

RW

( A.K.Dar )

Shri Shahnawaz Khan,  
Parliamentary Secretary to the  
Minister of Railways,  
New Delhi.

Encls:



15  
real Mr. Bose.

A newspaper played up the information furnish by me surrounding the death of Mr. Bose. I told many newsmen and former soldiers who came to ask me about matter that I did not write you anything which might be against the interests of Japanese nation.

As to the jewels in question, putting all accounts together, it seems they were full of a bag 10x 8x5 inches instead of one oil can. I heard that his plane arrived at Taihoku Aerodrome from Berma via Bangkok and Saigon. It is reported that the jewels were brought by him secretly at that time. I know all the names of persons who were there to meet him as well as his co-passengers in the fighter plane heading for Japan. No sooner the plane flew up several hundred meters than it crashed on the ground. I presume his adjutant Mr. Brahman did not suffer serious injuries.

I heard something artificial had been hidden in the plane. There is a rumour that the jewels were handed over by a certain person, whose name is clearly known, to members of the General Staff Office. They were sent to Tokyo. In Miyagi Prefecture, there is 5000 Unit at Ojoji and the rest is being kept in the safe of Miyagi Prefectural Government.

In this connection, people in my locality are speaking ill of me saying "Mr. Kobayashi may be making a living by selling the jewels in question which he divided with his old friends." I have got my wife and two boys of 9 and 14 years of age respectively. Since I was injured at my right hand, I am receiving livelihood guarantee money for the disabled. I hope you will understand that I am really disabled from the enclosed "Certificate for the disabled persons." It was my opinion that the military car was sent to Sendai on the ground that the city was Mr. Aizo Soma's native place. People say that the jewels kept in the safe of Miyagi Prefectural Government have been removed by American soldier, Major who is imprisoned in the United States now.



150  
I shall be grate ful for your kind reply to my following questions;

1. Is Mr Chandra Bose for whom I served as a guide real one?

2. Or, did he never visit Japan and was he killed of an explosion at the Matsuyama aerodrome?

As for me, I feel like dreaming. His funeral service was held by the Imperial Headquarters and the highest rank was given by a temple of Nichiren sect at Koenji to the departed soul.

I shall geve you more information at your request.

11th July, 1956

Faithfully yours,

SANKAYSU KOBAYASHI



PERSON KILLED IN PLANE CRASH WAS SUBSTITUTE

According to Mr- Sankatsu Kobayashi who served for Mr. Chandra Bose as his guide, Mr. Bose married a daughter of the owner of Nakamura Bakery at Shinjuku, Tokyo, having two children at the time of his death. During the war, there was a rumour that Mr. Bose was living in Niigata Prefecture, but Mr. Bose had been substituted by one named U Nu according to Mr. Kobayashi. The ashes of Mr. Bose who was killed in a plane accident at the Taihoku Aerodrome was sent to the Imperial Headquarters and buried in a grave at the Renkoji Temple by the members of the India Independence League. However, Mr. Kobayashi says that it was not Mr. Bose who was killed in the plane accident because he proceeded to Burma with his two children and died there under the pressure of the authorities. Mr. Kobayashi wanted to visit the Netaji Inquiry Committee but he wrote to them as he was very busy, and received a letter of thanks from the committee.

Mr Kobayashi says:-

"I served for Mr. Bose at the request of Mr. Bamboku Ohno's younger brother, I heard something about the disposal of the fund for Indian independence and jewels, but I do not know the details. Since Mr. Bose's life was in danger, they made three "Bose", and the real Mr. Bose had been staying in Tokyo. I have got an information that he died in Burma after the last war, not in Taihoku of Formosa.



15  
CERTIFICATE FOR REDUCTION OF PASSENGER'S  
FARES FOR DISABLED PERSONS.

(Good for only one person)

From station to station

Address: 42, Maino Joonsugi Ochiai, Yamato-cho  
Kurokawa-gun.

Name: Sankata Kobayashi.

Class &  
Rate of reduction:

3rd class. 50% reduction.

-----  
Issued on the 31st January, 1956

Sd/

(Kenzo Fukushi)

Chief,  
Miyagi Kurokawa Branch  
Miyagi Prefectural Govt.

~~SECRET~~

(90)

(156)

No. F.5(1)NGO-I

July 25, 1956.

Dear Mr. Kaul,

✓ 81.83  
p.144

4 p.157-158/c.  
With reference to your telegram No. 28424 of July 3rd, 1956, I enclose herewith a self-explanatory letter dated the 24th July, 1956, together with its enclosures as received today from the Gaimusho official incharge of Indian Affairs. Mention in this letter of Mr. Dar's letter relates to my original request to the Gaimusho for supplying the material that had been asked by you.

2. The Gaimusho have mentioned verbally in addition that they have been unable to trace any further records whether in their custody or in Formosa.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

AKD

( A.K.Dar )

Shri T.N. Kaul, ICS,  
Joint Secretary,  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
New Delhi.

Encls:



July 24, 1956

✓ 8880  
P. 141/c.

Dear Mr. Dar,

With reference to your letter No. F.5(1)NGO-I of May 30th, 1956, and my letter dated June 14th, 1956, I wish to inform you that the following reply has been received from Mr. K. Horiuchi, Ambassador of Japan at Taipei, to our enquiry made on this matter:

1. "Doctor's Report" and "Police Report" as mentioned in Mr. Dar's letter could not be traced at Taipei in spite of all efforts.

2. As to "Cremation Permit" a certified copy of the original document on cremation permit which is held by the Bureau of Health and Hygiene Taipei Municipal Office, could be obtained. The document mentions the name of ICHIRO OKURA as the deceased and that of TANEYOSHI YOSHIMI as the applicant. Since the death of Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose was kept strictly confidential at that time, it is believed that this cremation permit on ICHIRO OKURA must correspond to the case for late Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose.

Therefore, I wish to enclose herewith the above-mentioned copy of "Cremation Permit" together with its translation in English.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/- Hisaji Hattori

Chief of 4th Section  
Asian Affairs Bureau  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. A.K. Dar,  
First Secretary,  
Embassy of India,  
Tokyo.

No.	Name of Disease	Date of Death Date of Permission Date of Cremation	Place of Burial & Cremation.	Occupation	Sex	Permanent Domicile Present address.	Name of Deceased	Date of Birth	Applicant Address Name
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2640

2641	Heart Attack	Aug.19,1945 Aug.21,1945 Aug.22,1945	000 Municipal Crematory	Non-regular staff member of Army Forces.	Male	No.1,2-Chome, Ichiro Dogenzaka, Okura Shibuya-ky, Tokyo. No.2,3-chome, Nogi-machi Taipei City	April 9, Unit 1900. No.21123	Yoshimi	Taneyoshi
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Examined and authenticated by  
the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

S E A L.

Sd/- Yasutoru Asahina  
Secretary,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
(Archives Section).

It is certified that the above statement, abstracted  
from the original document on cremation permit,  
is correct and true.

July 14, 1956.

Bureau of Health & Hygiene,  
Taipei Municipal Office. (Sealed)



(159)  
July 25, 1956

Dear Mr. Hattori,

This is to acknowledge with thanks ✓ p. 157-158/c  
the receipt of your letter dated the 24th July,  
1956, the contents whereof have been forwarded  
to India.

Yours sincerely,

AKD  
( A.K.Dar )

Mr. H. Hattori,  
Chief of the 4th Section,  
Asian Affairs Bureau,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Tokyo.



S.N. Maitra, I.C.S.

(92)

D.O. No. PS/56/NEC.  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
NEW DELHI.

Dated the 4th August 1956.

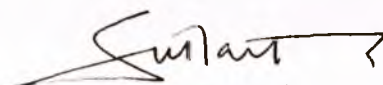


My dear Dar,

Many thanks for your D.O. letter of 24th July 1956 enclosing photographs of Mr. Hachiya as well as of Rev. Mochizuki and Col. T. Sakai. The photographs (by Air Mail) came just in time for incorporating in our report. You will be glad to know that the report was handed over to the Prime Minister yesterday. It has been signed by Shri Shah Nawaz Khan and myself.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

  
(S.N. MAITRA)  
y/f

Shri A.K. Dar,  
First Secretary  
Embassy of India,  
Tokyo.





SECRET

(93) No. 5741 JS (E)  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
NEW DELHI.

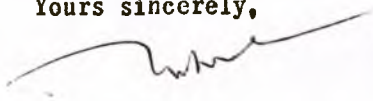
(16)



My dear Dar,

✓  
86.90  
✓  
p. 156-158/5  
This is to acknowledge, with thanks,  
the receipt of your D.O. letter No. F.5(1)NGO-I  
dated 25th July 1956 and its enclosures.

Yours sincerely,

  
(T.N. Kaul)

Shri A.K. Dar, I.F.S.,  
First Secretary,  
Embassy of India in Japan,  
TOKYO.

~~TOP SECRET~~

(162)



MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(94)

NEW DELHI

D.O. No. 25/4/NGO 9th September 1957



My dear Jha,

I enclose for your information copy of a representation dated 1st July, 1957, addressed to the Prime Minister by the Priest of the Rankeji Temple regarding the ashes of the late Subhash Chandra Bose.

2. I shall be grateful if you will be so good as to acknowledge the Priest's letter and let us have your comments very early about the matter. As you are aware, the Prime Minister is likely to visit the temple during his tour to Japan.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

(B.K. Acharya)

Shri C.S. Jha, ICS,  
Ambassador of India,  
TOKYO



163

July 1, 1957  
130, 2-chome, Koenji,  
Sugisami-ku, Tokyo  
Japan.

His Excellency,  
Dr. Panjit Jawahar Lal Nehru,  
The Prime Minister of India,  
New Delhi, India.

Dear Sir,

As I stated in my letter dated November 25, 1953, I am keeping the ashes of Netaji Shath Chandra Bose singlehanded with a religionist's firm belief in so doing. During the past 13 years, I have overcome various difficulties to safeguard the ashes and never forgot due services to rest the soul of Netaji.

As a result of investigations made by a mission which was dispatched here by your government in 1956 to inquire into the death of the late Chandra Bose, the problem of Netaji's ashes safely kept in my temple has come to attract much public attention both here and abroad, and this made me more prudent in the safe-keeping and protection of the ashes. Considering the importance of the problem, I am firmly resolved to protect the ashes against any developments to maintain the dignity of Netaji's soul and to safeguard his ashes.

In January, 1954, a man you appointed came to my temple and read your letter to me. At that time, I expressed my desire to get the contribution of a sublime box to contain the ashes. He promised me to transmit it to you, but I am sorry to say that it has not yet been realized.

Now, I hope you will allow me to inform you the following points, on which if you kindly let me know your intentions, I am greatly obliged.

1. August 18 of this year is the 13th anniversary of Netaji's death. Since it is the most important event for my temple, I am planning to hold a solemn memorial service with the support of the Japanese Foreign Office, Indian Embassy in Japan, Tokyo Metropolitan Government and various other organizations concerned to mark the occasion with great significance.

2. If you do not mind, I would like to ask you whether your government has decided any measures for the maintenance of the dignity and the safe-keeping as well as for the return to India of Netaji's ashes.

3. At the news of your visit to Japan, the Japanese people are looking forward to the day with joy. It is easily supposed that you will be very busy with official arrangements when you visit Japan, but I sincerely hope as a religionist that you will visit my temple as a part of your official itinerary, or if impossible, unofficially to console the soul of Netaji.

I have the honour to pray that you will be in good health as ever.

Yours very truly,

Sd. Kyei Mechizuki

Priest of Reakoji Temple

1164

TOP SECRET

D.O. No. F.5(1)NGO-I

(95)

September 20, 1957

My dear Acharya,

Please refer to your letter No. 25/4/NGO  
of 9th September, 1957.

✓  
X.26  
p431c

2. As regards point 1 of Rev. Mochizuki's letter to the Prime Minister, this Embassy was represented at the ceremonial service held on the 18th August. I myself could not attend but the First Secretary, the Press Attache and the Military Attache were present on the occasion. Later the Prime Minister's decision to visit the temple on Sunday the 13th October disposes of point 3 of Rev. Mochizuki's letter. As regards point 2 the position is that Miss. Leilamani Naidu wrote to us in her letter No. D.5219-NGO/53 of 4th December, 1953, that Rev. Mochizuki should be informed that at a proper time Netaji's ashes will be sent for and appropriately kept in India. Since then the Prime Minister in answer to a question in the Lok Sabha on 29th September, 1955, said that no steps should be taken without the approval of the family of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. We do not know if there have been any further developments in this connection. It is for our Government to decide whether they would ask for the ashes to be sent to India and the manner in which Netaji's ashes should be preserved or consecrated.

3. I presume it is your intention that you should yourself reply to Rev. Mochizuki's letter.

Yours sincerely,

  
( C. S. Jha )

Shri B.K. Acharya,  
Joint Secretary,  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
NEW DELHI.





TOP SECRET.

25(4)/NGO

(96)



October 29, 1957.

81 95  
164

My dear Ambassador,

Kindly refer to your D.O. letter No.F.5(1) NGO-I of the 20th September addressed to Shri Acharya, regarding the ashes of Netaji. The controversy in regard to the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose has not yet ended at least so far as some members of his family are concerned. The Prime Minister, therefore, decided on receipt of the Netaji Enquiry Committee's report that no attempt should yet be made to bring the ashes back to India. The present arrangement should continue. It will be expedient if perhaps you would suitably inform Rev. Mochizuki with reference to his letter to the Prime Minister.

With kind regards  
Yours sincerely,

*J. S. MEHTA*  
(J. S. MEHTA)

Shri C. S. Jha, I.C.S.,  
Ambassador of India,  
TOKYO.

No. F.5(1)NGO-I

(94)

166  
November 8, 1957


To

Rev. Kyoel Mochizuki,  
Priest of Renkoji Temple,  
130, 2-chome, Koenji,  
Suginami-ku, TOKYO.

Dear Sir,

On 1st July you wrote to His Excellency the Prime Minister of India asking him whether he had decided any measures for the maintenance of the dignity and the safe-keeping as well as for the return to India of Netaji's ashes. Since then Pandit Nehru has himself been to your temple and has seen the ashes kept by you there. Impressed by the arrangements made by you for the safe-keeping of these ashes, he feels that for the present they should continue in your temple. I trust this arrangement will be acceptable to you.

Yours faithfully,

  
( C.S.Jha )  
Ambassador of India



*P.H.*  
*pp please 9910-12.*  
No. D.5046-EA/57  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

New Delhi (3), the ..... December, 1957.

*Do we have any papers for this subject?*  
*any*  
*15-*  
Dear Chancery,

/ Forwarded herewith is a copy of a letter dated 22nd November, 1957 addressed by Mr. Chisema Nishimura to the Prime Minister.

*Only 4 copies have been kept.*  
Five copies of the Netaji Inquiry Committee Report are sent herewith. One of these may kindly be sent to Mr. Nishimura with the remark that the Government of India have no objection to his quoting portions of the report in his articles.



Embassy of India in  
Japan,  
Tokyo.

(COPY)

(1168)  
YAMATO-KYOKU-KUNAI  
KANAGAWA-KEN-JAPAN.

HIS EXCELLENCY PRIME MINISTER  
DR. PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU JI.

NOVEMBER 22, 1957.

Dear Sir,

/continue pre-  
serving Netaji's  
ashes safely

I have the honour to inform you that as the adviser of Rankoji temple, I read the letter addressed to Rev Mochizuki which had been written at your request by His Excellency Ambassador Jhar. Asked by Rev Mochizuki of my opinion as to your proposal about preserving Netaji Base's ashes safely further, I instantly told him that I agreed with you about it. Then he agreed, too. I am sure ~~he~~ will continue till the day when they are returned home at your request. In a few days Rev Mochizuki will post his letter to you, together with seven memorial photographs taken on October, 13.

By the way, I have a great favour to ask of you. The other day I read through the pamphlet entitled "Netaji Inquiry Committee Report" which had been published by Government of India in 1956. Rankoji temple was presented it by Indian Embassy. I as well as Rev. Mochizuki should like to let its contents know to Japanese people, as some of them misunderstand about Netaji's death and his ashes.

I would like you to let me know if you will kindly allow me quoting some contents of the Report when I write an article about it. I think just friendship between India and Japan will be produced on making both peoples' misunderstandings die down at the very beginning.

I wish you good luck and health.

Hoping to see you again some day in future if possible.

*very truly*  
Yours faithfully,

Sd/-



(99)  
No. F.5(1)NGO-I

(169)  
December 13, 1957

To

Mr. Chisema Nishimura,  
Yamato Kyoku-kunai,  
Kanagawa-Ken.

Dear Sir,

p-168/c  
I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 22nd November, 1957, to the Prime Minister of India.

2. As desired by you in your letter I am to enclose herewith one copy of the Netaji Enquiry Committee's report and to inform you that the Government of India have no objection to your quoting portions of this publication in your article.

Yours faithfully,

gjm  
( G.J.Malik )  
First Secretary

Encl:



FOREIGN SECRETARY

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
NEW DELHI

No. FS/1009

1170  
November 26, 1957  
407  
17-11-57

My dear Jha,

Prime Minister tells me that before he left Japan he heard that Amiya Bose, son of the late Sarat Chandra Bose, had reached Tokyo. Prime Minister would like to know what Shri Amiya Bose did in Tokyo. Did he pay any visit to the Renkoji Temple and did he call at the Embassy at all?

...  
2. I also send herewith a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from the priest of the Renkoji Temple.

Yours sincerely,

  
(S. Dutt)

Shri C.S. Jha,  
Ambassador of India,  
Tokyo (JAPAN)



To; Mr Shar Nowaz Khan,  
Chairman of the Netaji Investigation Committee  
c/o The Embassy of India in Japan.

From; Sankatsu Kobayashi  
No. 42, Maino Ipponsugi, Ochiai  
Yamato -cho, Kurokawa-gun,  
Miyagi-Ken.

Dear Sir;

Thank you very much for your letter of 25 May 1956.  
Since I am 65 years of age, I have forgotten most of the things  
happend in those days, but I write to you again as below whatever  
I have recollected:

From newspapers and magazines, I had understood that  
Mahatma Gandhi conducted non-violence movement against the British  
while great poet Tagore quietly strived for independence through  
his poems and that Indian nation were united in patriotism enduring  
all the difficulties with a beam of hope in their mind.

I first met him secretly to be his guide, at the instruction  
of Mr. Ohno, at Shinjuku station in 1933 if I remember it correctly  
and parted from him at Koenji station after a pretty long time.  
His secret house might have been located at 3-chome, Koenji, Tokyo  
and we met each other at certain places as he came like a wind.  
I was often asked by military policemen who he was and I had to  
move my car to other places to meet him. Once, he visited a  
western style house at Yoyogi parade ground and came back after  
came out looking a little nervous after half an hour. I thought  
he met Mr. Seigo Nakano then. On the other hand, he looked very  
cheerful after he visited Mr. Miysuru Tohyama at Tokiwamatsu in  
Shibuya.

As I wrote to you in my previous letter, he married a daughter  
of Mr Aizo Soma and Mrs, Kokko Soma who were running a fruit shop  
at Shinjuku. Mr. Soma is of Sendai origin but his house is not  
in the city at present. There were many Mr. Bose at that time  
They include Mr. Chnaselor Bose, Shibashi Chandra Bose and Subas  
Chandra Bose (spealed Phonetically), and I did not know who was the



(COPY)

(17)  
103, 2-chome  
Koenji, Suginami-ku  
Tokyo, Japan  
November 22, 1957

His Excellency Prime Minister  
Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

Dear Sir,

I have no adequate words to express my thanks for your having visited the Renkoji Temple on October 13. It was regrettable to me that as you were busy I could not have time enough to talk with you.

Netaji Bose's soul, I suppose, must have been content really with your visit. Enclosed here you will find the photographs taken on that day.

On November 8, I received a letter from His Excellency Ambassador Jha, telling that you had asked me to agree to preserving Netaji Bose's ashes safely further hereafter. Of course, I agree with you of this matter. But I feel Netaji's soul is anxious to return to his fatherland as soon as possible.

By the way, I should like to tell you that I was at Haneda Airport to see you off when you were about to leave Japan. Praying that you would reach your country safe, I saw you off at the general people's seats. I regret deeply I could not tell you good-by directly.

I close this letter, believing I shall be able to have a chance to see you again in future.

I wish you good luck and health.

Yours very truly

Sd/

Kyoei Mochizuki  
The priest of the  
Renkoji Temple.



10th Dec. 1957

My dear Dutt,

Will you kindly refer to your D.O. letter No. PS/1009 dated November 26, 1957? Amiya Bose was in Japan for about a month. He appears to have arrived just a few days before the Prime Minister's visit and left on the 30th October. I came to learn that he was here a few days before he left. He met our Military Attache and a day before he was due to leave he called on me.

2. Amiya Bose told me that he had come to Japan to collect original material in connection with Netaji Subhas Bose's biography which he was writing. During his stay he had contacted various people with a view to find out Netaji's contacts and activities in Japan. He had tried to get hold of any letters written by him to various people or other documents concerning him. He said that he had found a great regard for Netaji in Japan (which is true) and several people had promised to furnish him material. He also said that the house in which Netaji Subhas Bose lived in Calcutta had been converted into an international cultural centre which it was also intended to be used as a repository of things associated with Netaji. He was, however, rather woolly and vague about this. When asked by me about the precise nature of the activities of this Centre he added that it would be a sort of counterpart of the Indian Council of World Affairs.

3. Amiya Bose did not say that he had come to find out the truth about Netaji's death but when I asked him whether he had any views on that controversial subject he merely said that there were circumstances indicating that Netaji had been preparing to leave for Russia. He could not say whether Netaji was alive or dead but he had no hesitation in saying that the Enquiry Committee had not done its job properly and that the Government of India should have appointed a Committee of persons of higher calibre.

4. A few days before his departure he was entertained to lunch by an official of the Gaimusho (Mr. Miyake who used to be Counsellor in India) at which our Military Attache was also invited. No special significance need be attached to this. Gaimusho probably entertained him partly because their Consul General in Calcutta had written to them and partly because they wished to find out what he had been doing. It is the usual practice here for some officers of the Gaimusho to ask visiting Indians, even if they are not particularly distinguished, to a meal if they have been commended by their Embassy or Consuls General in India.



5. We have no information about Amiya Bose having indulged here in any undesirable activities or expressions of opinion adverse to the Government of India or to its policies. I attach for your information a copy of a news item on him in the Japan Times.

6. As far as we have been able to ascertain, Amiya Bose did not visit the Renkoji Temple.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

✓  
(C.S. JHA)

Shri S. Dutt, I.C.S.,  
Foreign Secretary,  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
New Delhi

Encl:1



124  
OCT. 17, 1957

BOSE'S NEPHEW HERE TO COLLECT DATA ON LEADER'S ACTIVITIES

The nephew of the celebrated Indian leader, Subhas Chandra Bose, is now in Japan on a three-week visit to collect material bearing on his uncle's activities in Japan.

Amiya Nath<sup>B</sup> Bose, secretary of the Sarat Bose Academy in Calcutta, also desires to establish contacts in Japan for the academy, a research institute on national and international affairs.

Bose said he will welcome any information and help from persons here who had contacts with his uncle during the war.

The tall, well-built Indian scholar who bears a striking resemblance to his uncle said that the "Netaji's" house in Calcutta would be preserved intact to perpetuate the memory of the popular Indian freedom fighter, who is believed to have died in a plane crash in Taipei on his way to Japan shortly after the end of the Pacific War.

He said that plans are afoot to build an international hall and a guest house in the spacious compounds of the Bose home. These will be constructed with contributions from Asian countries "so that they can function as an Asian centre for studies on international affairs with special emphasis on Asian problems."

He said the memories of Bose are still cherished by many Indians so much so that 100,000 persons attended the memorial services held recently in Calcutta.



He added that Calcutta remains the most important cultural center of India.

Rose is scheduled to spend the weekend in Kansai and resume his activities in Tokyo early next week. He is due to leave for Calcutta Oct. 29.





CONFIDENTIAL

FOREIGN SECRETARY

No.FS/1044.

December 12, 1957.

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
NEW DELHI



My dear Jha,

Thank you for your  
letter No.F.5(b)NGO-I of  
December 10 regarding Amiya  
Bose's activities in Japan.

Yours sincerely,

(S. Dutt)

Shri C.S. Jha,  
Ambassador of India,  
Tokyo.

To Mr. G. J. Malik.  
First Secretary  
Embassy of India in Japan.

Sum. File. 45  
14-12  
C. N. K. K.

Yamatokyokukana  
Kanagawa-ken.  
December 16, '57

(22)



Dear sir,

(103)

I acknowledge receipt of your favour of December 13 and one copy of the Netaji Enquiry Committee's report.

I have no adequate words to express my thanks for them.

I should be much pleased if you would kindly convey my best regards to His Excellency Prime Minister of India.

I wish you good luck and health.

Yours truly.

Chisemayishimura

西村千勢馬

P. S.

I enclose two photographs herewith.

One copy removed  
& placed below  
w/ his file

One copy removed by  
C. N. K. K.  
S. C. K.



(104)



178

12th January, 1958.

Sir,

Please let us congratulate for your health. We understand that an association named Subhas Chandra Bose Academy will be formed in Calcutta on the 23rd of January, Netaji's birthday.

In this connection, we should like to hold a meeting of persons who had deep relation with the deceased in Japan and to seek your esteemed advice for forming a similar association here and thereby promote friendly relation between India and Japan.

We know you are very busy but sincerely hope you will kindly honour us with your presence.

Sincerely yours,

Caretakers:-

Shohzo Kawabe  
Takeo Iwakuro  
Chu Katakura  
Kikuko ~~Maria~~ Emori

Time: Noon,  
January 23, 1958 (Thur.)  
Place: Tohtoh Tei, Hibiya.

To  
His Excellency Mr. C.S. Jha,  
and Mrs. Jha.

K.K.  
Recv'd 22.1.58.

75. J.P.A.  
may attend.  
23/1/58  
75



(105)  
~~TOP SECRET~~

(179)

F.5(1)NGO-I.

25th August, 1958.

My dear Acharya,

Please refer to the correspondence resting with Rauf's letter No. F.5(1)NGO-I of 5th December, 1952, about Subhas Bose's treasure.

2. Recently a Japanese gentleman named Keiso Takei now employed by the Miyoshi Chemical Co. Ltd. whose office is at 8, 1-chome, Tamachi, Kanda, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo has been coming to the Embassy. He claims that he has knowledge of the whereabouts of Subhas Bose's treasure which he can identify because he himself did liaison work with the INA during the war having, inter alia, trained Indian cadets in the INA.

3. According to him the principal item of jewellery is an oriental emerald weighing 18,400 carats. There are also star sapphires, white diamonds and other valuables. These valuables are allegedly deposited in the Mitsui Bank by the present holder, a Mr. Tajima. Mr. Takei offers to use his efforts to try to determine if the articles belonged to Subhas Chandra Bose and to persuade the present holder that his possession of these valuables is illegal and he should transfer them to the Embassy. Mr. Takei requests our cooperation and does not ask for any remuneration.

4. Personally we find it difficult to accept Mr. Takei's story. It seems incredible that an emerald of 18,400 carats should exist at all and, if it exists, should not be an object of interest to all collectors, museums and jewellers in the world. Similarly it is unlikely that Mr. Takei performed liaison duties with the INA because he speaks no language other than Japanese. However, as he is very insistent and has left a written statement in Japanese with us we feel that we should mention the matter to you in view of the interest which the Prime Minister himself took in this subject in 1951. At that time, I understand, the matter was dropped because it was considered that the publicity which might arise from any investigation would not be worth the value of the property likely to be salvaged. Now that we are offered some specific details, I wonder if you would like us to pursue it, and indicate how we should proceed. I might add that as the information furnished to us by Mr. Takei concerns a Japanese national and a Japanese Bank, any enquiries except through the agencies of the Japanese Government may be extremely difficult.

Yours sincerely,

  
( C.S. Jha )

Shri B.K. Acharya,  
Joint Secretary,  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
NEW DELHI.





D.O. No: 25(4)NGO.

(106)

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
NEW DELHI.

The 13th October, 1958.



My dear Jha:

I regret I have not been able to reply earlier to your letter No: F.5(1)NGO-I, dated the 25th August regarding Shri Subhas Bose's treasure.

2. On his return from Japan, however, I have consulted Foreign Secretary who is of the view that the best course will be for you to take up the matter with the Japanese Foreign Office. You might transmit to them the information which has reached the Embassy and ask the Foreign Office for their advice as to how best the matter could be pursued. It should be made clear to the Foreign Office that the Government of India have no intention of entering upon any protracted civil proceedings in this matter. You may, however, refer to the high esteem and veneration in which the memory of the late Shri Bose is held in India and add that, apart from the sentimental value to India of anything connected with him, it will only be in keeping with the late Shri Bose's struggle for giving a better deal to the poor people of his country to let any treasure left by him be utilised for some humanitarian purpose.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*B. K. Acharya*  
(B.K. Acharya)

Shri C.S. Jha, ICS.,  
Ambassador of India in Japan,  
Tokyo.

S.No. (105)

(167)

(181)

No.F.5(1)HCO-1.

27th November, 1958.

My dear

Would you please refer to the correspondence about the late Shri Subash Chandra Bose's ashes resting with the Ambassador's letter of even reference dated 10th December, 1957.

Last month, I went to see Mr. Miyake, Dy. Director of the Asian Affairs Bureau in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He asked me when the Government of India proposed to remove Shri Bose's ashes. He explained that this was a personal enquiry as the priest had been feeling uncomfortable about the continued presence of the ashes in the temple. According to Mr. Miyake, it is not the custom in Japan for ashes to be kept continuously in temples. They are normally retained for a short period and then transferred to the family grave or shrine. Moreover, the priest also feels that he is getting old and that he should not leave the ashes to others after his death. I explained to Mr. Miyake that there had been no request from either Mr. Bose's family in Austria or his relatives in India and we may be embarrassed by having these ashes in India since, among Hindus, the ashes are cast into a river or otherwise scattered. Mr. Miyake said that, in any case, it would be more appropriate for the ashes to be disposed of in India than retained indefinitely in Japan.

I have reported this matter to the Ambassador who agrees that there is force in Mr. Miyake's argument particularly when we are officially taking steps to transfer the ashes of Shri Rash Behari Bose and arrangements are being made for keeping them in India.

This matter is being reported for your information and for any comments you may wish to make. I would also like some guidance as to what I should say to Mr. Miyake if he again raises this question, as I feel he will.

Yours sincerely,

19

( G.J. Malik )

Shri J.S. Mehta, I.F.S.,  
Deputy Secretary,  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
New Delhi.



(108)

EMBASSY OF INDIA IN JAPAN  
407  
16 DEC 1958  
TOKYO

To: Mr. G.J. Malik  
First Secretary,  
Indian Embassy, Tokyo.

From: L.D.M. Abeyaratne &  
Ichiro Kagabu,  
96, Tokujii-cho, Ikegami,  
Ohta-ku, Tokyo.

Subject:- Buddha's emerald head illegally possessed by  
Japanese national.

Sir,

I send herewith a photo of Buddha's emerald head which originally belonged to the late Mr. Subash Chandra Bose. It is now possessed by Mr. Jusei Tajima, whose career is not clear excepting that he was in the South Seas area during the last war. The fact that he should possess the article is unreasonable. On one occasion he says he has bought it at Singapore, while on the another occasion he says he has bought it from Netaji's Japanese lady. Thus, whether he has got it through a proper channel or not is questionable.

As mentioned in an article "Whereabouts of Japanese diamond" in a magazine "Special issue of Bungei-Shunju 1956.2", matters regarding diamond were taken up at the Diet may be because there are some questions about Netaji's diamond. It is surmized from the article that Mr. Tajima might have illegally obtained the article.

It is justice to recover it from the man who got the emerald head illegally.

In the circumstances I submit this photo to His Excellency the Ambassador hoping that the article in question may be returned to India through diplomatic procedures.

Faithfully yours,

(L.D.M. Ameyertne)  
(Ichiro Toshiba)

EMBASSY OF INDIA IN JAPAN  
407  
16 DEC 1958  
TOKYO



Translation from an article appeared in monthly magazine  
Bungei-Shunju 1956.2, special number.

WHEREABOUTS OF ONE TRILLION YEN DIAMOND

By Mr. Kohichi Sekoh.

A large amount of diamond was procured by Japanese Government from the nation during the last war. According to a testimony at the Diet in those days by an official in charge, the amount of the diamond procured from the nation was about 160,000 carats, which is at present kept at the Bank of Japan. I cannot, however, agree to the figure since there must be about ~~250~~ 650,000 ~~550~~ carats according to the results of my investigation made when I was parliamentary vice Minister for International Affairs. In this connection, many people were summoned to testify at the Diet after the war. I understand GHQ (General Headquarters) had delicate relation with the diamond issue. Accidentally I came to know they had 50 carats of diamond in their custody. Also, I know a large amount of diamond was found when a plane crashed with Mr. Bose and some Japanese on board. Further, many pieces of diamond had ~~been~~ scattered at the crashing site of a Japanese plane at Mr. Mihara.

My prayer is that diamond illegally possessed by certain people will come out to the world and returned to the original owners. I am sure huge amount of concealed diamond will be displayed at show-windows of jewel shops once a law authorizing ownership of diamond by the present owners is promulgated.

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(109)



Written opinion

To: His Excellency  
The Ambassador of India.

From: Ichiro Kagabu,  
96, Tokujicho, Ikegami, Ohta-ku, Tokyo.  
&  
L.D. M. Abeyratne

p. 182 ante

We have submitted earlier our written opinion on the Buddha's Emerald Head and introduced an article appeared in a magazine regarding a problem of diamond which was once taken up by Mr. Koichi Sekoh, member of the House of Representatives at the Diet.

Since Mr. Sekoh has been appointed State Minister in the Kishi Cabinet, we should suggest that you may kindly request him to expedite return of the Buddha's Emerald Head to India. Since Mr. Sekoh has strived for the cause of justice, we are sure that he will cooperate with you in the matter in his official capacity.

We write the above opinion for your information.

13th January, 1959.

11  
29.  
vc. mia p. 4  
H.



竟良書

エタニアルト佛堂に於て

○ 邦女に衆議院議員世耕弘一氏の

産業と世界を以て「二世耕」の

「中毛」は、関東日本銀行に問題あり

2. 结论，记  $\pi$  之前 = 聚沉 = 修正

其に今田也耕は山内田舎の門路  
大田に人湖に地一をかしこの

エタラに御書やタキマエに決して未だ



より直接世耕にこれ等の印及への  
 返還を促進する採り供力を乞はれ  
 ば世耕は過去に於いて何人としてい  
 る義の爲めに努力せられた人  
 今後は日本政府の公人として心ず  
 け貴官に供力、いしむるのみ、一々の  
 情報として貴官に見書を提出し  
 たいとす

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No:

EMBASSY OF INDIA IN JAPAN  
TOKYO

February 23, 1961.

My dear

A couple of years ago this Embassy was informed by some non-official unknown Japanese that an emerald statue of Buddha of the length of about 10-11" once belonging to late Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was now in the possession of some Japanese family. It was reported that this statue was under negotiation for sale to some rich American and it was valued at a few million rupees. But the informant had stated that in view of the fact that the statue could have a sentimental value for the Government of India, they were in a position to arrange with the owners to sell it to us at even 10 to 15 per cent of the market value. The Ministry being consulted asked us to place the matter in the hands of the Japanese Foreign Office, who could be assured that we would not like to engage in any prolonged civil suit for the acquisition of the property. The Japanese Foreign Office when they were contacted, expressed helplessness in the absence of any definite knowledge of the whereabouts of the statue and any dependable evidence to show that the statue belonged to Netaji. As we ourselves had no other information besides the report of these unknown Japanese, the matter was allowed to rest at that.

2. A few days ago the report was once again made to us that the emerald statue was again available at a reasonable price. This time two of our officers succeeded in having a look at it. While none of them is a connoisseur of jewels, as laymen both of them felt that the material seemed to be somewhat similar to the emerald Buddha in Bangkok which is now in the possession of the Government of Thailand. The Foreign Office here has once again been approached. They have once again raised the difficulty about the lack of evidence to show that the property belonged to Netaji. Even if they succeed in securing the statue from its present holders, we have no such proof on our record. It is, however, believed that in case it really did form a part of the jewels in possession of Netaji when he died in the air crash, it must have been presented to him by some people either in Singapore or in Thailand or in Burma. It would, therefore, help us if it could be ascertained from people who were associated with the collection of funds for the Indian National Army in those countries whether in their knowledge, such a contribution was ever received by Netaji. I shall be grateful if you could kindly make confidential enquiries from such persons in your place who were close to Netaji during the Movement to find out if they could throw any light on the subject.

I hope you are keeping well and with kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

2. (1) Syk. Mani Rangan  
(2) Syk. Y.K. Puri - Kanakpur  
(3) San N.S. Gille - Bangkok

(Lalji Mehrotra)



Aug 23, 1851.

137

P.S. I think that Mr. Dina Nath, Sardar Zora Singh and Mr. Bashir of Bashir Shoe Company were connected with the collection ~~of~~ and administration of funds for the Azad Hind Army. Perhaps they may be able to say something so far as collections in Burma are concerned.

any was informed  
by an emerald  
green light. One of  
the men was killed  
and it was  
the first time since  
the revolution (or sale  
of the few million  
dollars in view of the  
value for  
the dollar it  
was even it so  
the country being  
the hands of  
the people that  
the great evil must  
be done.  
The demands  
for a stronger help  
to knowledge of the  
people while evidence to  
the people. As we ourselves  
are in the  
to rest at that

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... people either  
... It would,  
... from people  
... funds for the  
... in their  
... received by  
... daily make  
... place  
... be fixed out

only.

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P.K. Banerjee, IFS,  
Counsellor.

(111)

Do. No. F. S(1) - N4001

7th March, 1961.

My dear

Enclosed is a report on an image of emerald Buddha alleged to be part of personal property of Netaji Subhash Chander Bose.

In 1958 also, we received some information in this regard but our effort was fruitless. This time, however, we were more careful and discrete. At least we have been able to have a look at this emerald Buddha. Whether it is genuine or not is a different matter.

You may also notice that we brought this matter to the attention of the Foreign Office in Tokyo, and they are making investigation. If you have any information to confirm that Netaji Bose had an emerald Buddha in his possession, it would help us a lot. If you have any other instruction in the matter, kindly drop me a line.

With kindest regards.

Yours sincerely,

*P.K.B.*  
(P.K. Banerjee)

Shri K.L. Mehta,  
Joint Secretary,  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
New Delhi.



## Information Service of India

Mr. T. Ishikawa, a resident of Aomori City, accompanied by a person, who was introduced to us as a Buddhist monk, called at the ISI yesterday and reported that a 1700-year-old image of Lord Buddha made of emeralds, was soon to be sold by its owner to an American multi-millionaire connected with the Rockefeller Foundation for US.\$30 million. Mr. Ishikawa himself had neither seen the image nor did he know its owner. But the monk had seen the image and also knew its owner. According to him, the image showed Lord Buddha with folded hands, was about a foot high and weighed 14,700 carots. It was fixed on a 21" sq. piece of wood.

2. The Buddhist monk further added that the image originally belonged to the late Subhash Chandra Bose, but, after his death, came to be acquired by its present owner. He refused to disclose as to how the latter came to possess the image or what his name and address were. He, however, said that the owner had two houses: one in Tokyo and the other in Aomori, and that the image was at present lying in Tokyo.

3. Both Mr. Ishikawa and the Buddhist monk added that they did not like the idea of an image of Lord Buddha going to the USA for sake of money. On the other hand, they thought that Prime Minister Nehru was anxious that the image should be acquired by the Govt. of India. They said that they would be very happy to help the Govt. of India in acquiring the image if we agreed to pay them 5% of the total amount for which the image was going to be sold i.e. \$1.5 million. They refused to disclose as to how they could accomplish such a remarkable job of getting us an article for \$1.5 million when, according to their own statement, someone else was ready to pay \$30 million for the same article.

4. The matter was reported to the Counsellor. He said that there were some previous papers also on the subject. A look at the old file showed that a story about the treasures of the late Subhash Bose was told to us in 1953 also. At that time one Keizo Takei, an employee of the Niyoshi Chemical Co., Ltd., Tokyo, informed us that the treasures of the late Bose were deposited in the Mitsui Bank by their present holder, a Mr. Tajima. He also added that the principal item of treasures was an oriental emerald weighing 13,400 carots. The matter was reported to the Government of India in August 1958. They advised that the best course for us would be to take up the matter with the Japanese Government. We could transmit to them the information which we had and ask them for their advice as to how best the matter could be handled. We were also asked to make it clear to the Japanese Government that the Govt. of India had no intention of entering upon any protracted civil proceedings in this matter.

5. The matter was taken up with Mr. Iwama of the Gaimusho in December 1958 by our former First Secretary, Mr. Malik. An extract from a note recorded by him after meeting Mr. Iwama is reproduced below:

"He was rather discouraging saying that information we had received was not specific, that it would be difficult for the Police to undertake investigations without infringing the Human Rights Provisions of the Constitution, etc. He went so far as to suggest that we should engage a private detective. I pointed out that publicity was precisely what it was the interest of both Governments to avoid and that police could find things out with much less danger of publicity than a private investigation. I also said that it would be desirable to give some answer to the various parties which had come to the Embassy with information. Mr. Iwama said he would consult the Legal

Affairs Bureau".

There do not seem to have been any further developments in the matter since then.

Sd/-  
Dhian Singh  
13.1.61.

Sd/-  
(H.D. Bhalla)

Mr. Ishikawa and the Buddhist monk may be asked to show to our representative the image to enable us to judge the value of the same. While the repetition of such an offer gives a reason to imagine that some article of the kind does exist. We cannot entirely rely on it and take the next step until we see it ourselves.

Sd/-  
(Lalji Mehrotra)  
14.1.61.

Counsellor.

I suggest that FS(C) and TS(ISI) may kindly have a look at it and report.

Sd/-  
(P.K. Banerjee)  
16.1.61

Mr. Ishikawa contacted the Embassy today on the telephone. I told him that we would like to have a look at the image before considering the matter further. At first, he demanded 5% of \$30 million even for showing it, but later on said that he would contact us again after consulting some other people.

Sd/-  
(H.D. Bhalla)  
16.1.61.

Today Mr. Ishikawa and one Mr. Mikami who calimed to be priest but looked and behaved like a desperate character called on me. They have agreed to come on Friday, the 10th February at 1 P.M. here to take Shri Jerath and myself to the place and show us the image. They were very keen that we should decide about the matter. They also pressed for some key-money which the undersigned refused. One so-called certificate (copy) was given and also their local address near Gehinkan (Both attached)

Sd/-  
(H.D. Bhalla)  
8.2.1961

Counsellor  
Mr. Jerath

Good Luck.

Sd/-  
P.K.B.  
9.2.61.

Sd/-  
(R.K. Jerath)  
9.2.61.



On Friday the 10th February, FS(C) Shri Jerath and I, accompanied by interpreter went to a place near Gehinkan. We were escorted there by Mr. Ishikawa and Mr. Mikami and later on were introduced to three other gentlemen viz. Mr. Tojima (who claimed to be the owner), Mr. Kumouchi (an old man who gave the certificate) and one Mr. Akihara.

Mr. Tojima (a medium-sized man of about 50 years) claimed that the said image had been in his possession for over 40 years and that he had purchased it in Singapore. Later on he and others partly contradicted the claim and vaguely associated it with Shri Subhash Bose.

Ultimately the image was produced. The image of Buddha was about 9 or 10 inches in height. It seemed to be of emerald though we, of course, could not testify to its value or genuineness. The Buddha head was hollow from inside but was appeared to be fairly heavy.

Shri Jerath and I returned without any commitment and promised further consideration. After discussions with Ambassador and Counsellor, the undersigned informed Mr. Ishikawa and Mr. Mikami that the Embassy would proceed in the matter only through the Government of Japan.

On 15th February Shri Jerath and I met Mr. Uchida of the Gaimusho and requested informally that the matter should be investigated. To this the Gaimusho officials agreed.

Today I handed over a copy of the certificate and a copy of the address given by Mr. Mikami to Gaimusho. Later on Mr. Kawai accompanied by a plain-clothed detective and pointed out the place near Gehinkan where the image had been shown to us. Mr. Kawai had to be sent to the place near Gehinkan because the telephone number given by Mr. Kumouchi was wrong according to Gaimusho.

It should also be mentioned that Mr. Uchida and other officials of the Gaimusho mentioned that there are likely to be two difficulties in the matter viz.

- i) It will be very difficult to take over the image from the present possessor in so far as legal proceedings by the Government of Japan would be necessary.
- ii) Even if the image was recovered, it would be difficult to prove that the present ownership is illegal and also that the image in fact did belong to Shri Subhash Bose.

In view of the above, Ambassador may kindly consider writing to associates of Netaji to obtain further evidence in the matter.

Sd/-  
(H.D. Bhalla)  
20.2.61

FS(C)

Sd/-  
(R.K. Jerath)  
21.2.61.

Ambassador.

( 193

Address given by Mr. Mikami

at 13 10/

in Hozumi Kensetsu

Opposite Telephone-Telegraph

Office

Sankocho, Meguro

Faithfully yours,

(L.D.M. Ameyertne)

(Ichiro Toshibe)



(COPY)

To

Whom it may concern this (crystal) I judge  
with my wide experience.

It is to be a (oriental emerald) I am sure.

Height	21 cm
circumference	37 cm
neck	23.6 cm
weight	951 monme (3,575 kg)
	17,880 carats.

I do not think another one like this existed  
anywhere in the world.

Mortin H. Kamouchi

A damimond dealer of USA

Tokyo address

Phone (44 - 3059

Mr. Kamouchi

Tel: (441) - 8231



(196)

16th December, 1958.

To:

Mr. G.J. Malik,  
First Secretary,  
Indian Embassy, Tokyo.

From:

L.D.M. Abeyaratne &  
Ichiro Kagabu,  
96, Tokuji-cho, Ikegami,  
Ohta-ku, Tokyo.

Subject: Buddha's emerald head illegally possessed  
by Japanese national.

Sir,

I send herewith a photo of Buddha's emerald head which originally belonged to the late Mr. Subash Chandra Bose. It is now possessed by Mr. Jusei Tajima, whose career is not clear excepting that he was in the South Seas area during the last war. The fact that he should possess the article is unreasonable. On one occasion he says he has bought it at Singapore, while on the another occasion he says he has bought it from Netaji's Japanese lady. Thus, whether he has got it through a proper channel or not is questionable.

As mentioned in an article "Whereabouts of Japanese diamond" in a magazine "Special issue of Bungei-Shunju 1956.2", matters regarding diamond were taken up at the Diet may be because there are some questions about Netaji's diamond. It is surmized from the article that Mr. Tajima might have illegally obtained the article.

It is justice to recover it from the man who got the emerald head illegally.

In the circumstances I submit this photo to His Excellency the Ambassador hoping that the article in question may be returned to India through diplomatic procedures.

Faithfully yours,  
(L.D.M. Ameyertne)  
(Ichiro Toshibe)





Translation from an article appeared in monthly magazine Bungei-Shunju 1956-2, special number.

#### WHEREABOUTS OF ONE TRILLION YEN DIAMOND

By Mr. Kohichi Sekoh.

A large amount of diamond was procured by Japanese Government from the nation during the last war. According to a testimony at the Diet in those days by an official in charge, the amount of the diamond procured from the nation was about 160,000 carats, which is at present kept at the Bank of Japan. I cannot, however, agree to the figure since there must be about 650,000 carats according to the results of my investigation made when I was parliamentary vice Minister for International Affairs. In this connection, many people were summoned to testify at the Diet after the war. I understand GHQ (General Headquarters) had delicate relations with the diamond issue. Accidentally I came to know they had 50 carats of diamond in their custody. Also, I know a large amount of diamond was found when a plane crashed with Mr. Bose and some Japanese on board. Further, many pieces of diamond had scattered at the crashing site of a Japanese plane at Mr. Mihara.

My prayer is that diamond illegally possessed by certain people will come out to the world and returned to the original owners. I am sure huge amount of concealed diamond will be displayed at show-windows of jewel shops once a law authorizing ownership of diamond by the present owners is promulgated.





129-(TS)/6  
27/3  
K.L.Mehta, ICS.,  
Joint Secretary.

TOP SECRET  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
NEW DELHI

15th March, 1961.

D.O. No. D2166-N246,

My Dear P.K.,

Thank you for your Top Secret letter No.F.5(1)-NGO.I dated the 7th March, 1961, and the very interesting enclosure. I discussed with F.S. who feels that any attempt to establish Netaji's ownership over the emerald Buddha would be like a wild goose' chase. It is possible, however, that our Ministry of S.R.& C.A. may be interested in this image of Buddha for one of their Museums. Do you think it would be worth our while to take this up with them, specially as we are not even sure that the image is genuine and in fact worth very much more than what we may have to pay to the intermediaries.!

Best regards,  
K.L.Mehta  
(K. L. Mehta)

Shri P.K.Banerjee, IFS.,  
Counsellor,  
Embassy of India,  
TOKYO.





137-50/4  
27.3.61

No. 32/61

~~SECRET~~  
EMBASSY OF INDIA  
BANGKOK

13th March, 1961  
Phalgun 22, 1882 (Saka)

(101)  
22.3.61

My dear Lalji Mehrotra,

SN (111)

Please refer to your No. 5(1)NGO of 23.2.1961 regarding an emerald statue of Buddha which may belong to late Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

2. I have talked to two persons who were likely to throw the best light on the subject. Ishar Singh Nirula, who was a Minister in Netaji's government and who has lived in Thailand for long, told me that he did see the jewellery when it was being packed to be sent with Netaji when he left Bangkok for the last time. He does not remember seeing any emerald Buddha in this jewellery. He, however, states that he had only a general look and was not looking for any particular piece. He says S.A. Aiyer, who was put in charge of the jewellery accompanying Netaji, may be the best person to throw light on the matter.

3. The other person I have talked to is Sewak Mehtani, whose house Netaji was occupying and who was also in fairly close touch with him. He says he did not see the jewellery when it was being packed. However, he knows that before leaving Bangkok, Netaji gave some pieces to some of his aides and the rest he took with himself in carefully packed boxes. He feels these boxes must have been with him when the plane crashed in Formosa. So Habibul Rahman may be the best person to know what was packed and what happened to it after the crash.

4. I am sorry I cannot send you more helpful information for none here is likely to have any more than these two persons. Both of them state they never heard of any such magnificent piece being given to or being with Netaji. Aiyer's address I do not know but could be easily obtained from the Ministry. If it is any use approaching Habibul Rahman, he could perhaps be traced through the Pakistan Embassy at Tokyo. Bhonsle may also be able to throw some light as he was with Netaji till the last month, as also Gulzara Singh, a very staunch and trustworthy officer of Netaji. J.K. Bhonsle (General, INA) is Adviser to the Ministry of Education. And Gulzara Singh is in the Army and could be contacted through the Army Headquarters. He is probably a Major or a Lt. Colonel now as he had to rejoin in a lower rank than his original one.

With kindest regards and when do we see both of you again,

Yours sincerely,

(Naranjan Singh Gill)

Shri Lalji Mehrotra,  
Ambassador of India in Japan,  
TOKYO

27  
March 20, 1961.

Dear Mr. Ohi,

With reference to this morning's telephone conversation, we understand that the appropriate authorities have been able to establish contacts with the people connected with the image of Lord Budha. Regarding your suggestion that a reputed jeweller could also assist in the matter and also your suggestion that Mr. Kawai of our Embassy should discuss the matter with some officials, we are very happy to agree to the same and shall be grateful if we are acquainted with further progress in the matter.

Yours sincerely,

*H.B.*  
(H. Bhalla)

Mr. Hinoshi Ohi,  
South West Asia Section,  
Gaimusho, Tokyo.





(153)  
21-4-61  
22354/1  
22/4  
D.O.No.6 PG 60/102.

(115)  
~~SECRET~~ 201  
EMBASSY OF INDIA

Rangoon, 12th April 1961.

My dear Ambassador,

Please refer to your letter No.5(1)NGO  
dated February 23, 1961.

The story of the emerald Buddha is very interesting, but I have not been able to find any confirmation whatsoever from sources in Rangoon. Neither Dina Nath nor Zora Singh are aware of any such valuable emerald Buddha having been given to Netaji in Burma. A few months ago, there was a story of an emerald Buddha having been brought to light in Amritsar, and it was alleged that this had been taken from Burma by an Indian soldier. This has obviously nothing to do with the statue now in Japan. If any further relevant information comes to light, I shall write to you again.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*R. S. Mani*  
(R. S. MANI)  
Ambassador.

Shri Lalji Mehrotra,  
Ambassador of India,  
Tokyo. (JAPAN)



सत्यमेव जयते

243-55701  
16/5/61  
By category 'A' bag  
D.O.No. F. 2(11)-5/61

(116)

~~SECRET~~  
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA  
KUALA LUMPUR

21st April, 1961

My dear Mehrotra Sahab,

(172)  
16/5/61  
I am sorry that I have not been able to acknowledge earlier the receipt of your secret D.O. No. 5(1)NGO of February 23, 1961 regarding an emerald statue of Buddha said to have belonged to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. We have been making some enquiries both here and at Penang but have not so far been able to get any specific information. As and when we get any pointer in this connection, I shall write to you again. Meanwhile it occurs to me that two of the people most connected with Netaji are Shri N. Raghavan, previously our Ambassador in France and now settled in India, and Shri A.M. Sahay, previously our Ambassador in Thailand, and now living in India. I am afraid I do not have their addresses in India. It is also possible that you may have already written to them. It seems to me that they will be the two people in the best position to know about this matter.

2. We are all very well and hope that you all are also in the best of health and spirits.

Yours sincerely,

(Y.K. PURI)

Shri Lalji Mehrotra,  
Ambassador of India in Japan,  
Tokyo.





SECRET

By category 'A' bag  
D.O.No.F.2(11)-S/61

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA  
KUALA LUMPUR

28th April, 1961

My dear Mehrotra Sahib,

In continuation of my letter of even No. of 21st April, 1961 regarding the emerald statue of Buddha, I am writing to say that we had consulted Mr. S.A. Das, the author of "Chalo Delhi", who also knew Shri Subhash Chandra Bose very well. I am afraid Shri Das has no information about the emerald statue.

2. We also consulted Dr. M.K. Lukshumeyah, at one time Secretary-General of the Rear Headquarters of the Indian Independence League and who knew Netaji fairly intimately. Dr. Lukshumeyah said that it was not Netaji's practice to make a show of religion or of religious symbols. He never saw any emerald statue of the Buddha or other similar religious symbol in the possession of Netaji and he rather doubts whether the emerald statue mentioned in your letter ~~did~~ ever belong to Netaji.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Y.K. PURI)

Shri Lalji Mehrotra,  
Ambassador of India in Japan,  
Tokyo.



To be kept with file No. 2374 (ms-612)

# NETAJI INQUIRY COMMITTEE REPORT

1956



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1956

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## INTRODUCTION

DURING his lifetime, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had captured the imagination of the Indian public by his daring exploits, such as his escape from India to Germany, his voyage to the Far East in a submarine, and his fight with the British in Burma, with his Indian National Army. The limelight was followed by a sudden black-out in August 1945. The information about the last stages of his life came out in bits and pieces, but not as a coherent whole. Naturally, the public desired that all the facts should be enquired into, and made known. This desire was voiced in Parliament from time to time. In response to this, the Prime Minister, on the 3rd December 1955, announced in Parliament that an Official Committee would be appointed to go into the matter. Accordingly, the Government of India appointed a Committee as per Notification No. F. 30(26)FEA/55, dated the 5th April 1956, consisting of the following:

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, M.P. (Major General, I.N.A.), Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Transport, and Railway.

Shri Suresh Chandra Bose, elder brother of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Shri S. N. Maitra, I.C.S., Chief Commissioner, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Shri Maitra was a nominee of the Government of West Bengal. The terms of reference of the Committee were:

*"To enquire into and to report to the Government of India on the circumstances concerning the departure of, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose from Bangkok about the 16th August 1945, his alleged death as a result of an aircraft accident, and subsequent developments connected therewith."*

2. The Committee began its work early in April and finished its labour by the end of July. The principal line followed by the Committee was to examine as witnesses all persons in India and Far East who had useful information on the last phase of Netaji's activities. They also studied reports of secret enquiries concerning Netaji, conducted by Civil and Military Intelligence soon after the war. Over and above official documents, the members of the Committee also studied books and articles concerning Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. In all, the Committee examined 67 witnesses. A complete list of witnesses will be found in Annexure I. Of these, 32 witnesses were examined at Tokyo (Japan), 4 at Bangkok (Thailand), and 3 at Saigon (Viet. Nam), and the balance of 28 at



Delhi and Calcutta (India). A number of persons who were known to have been associated with Netaji in the last stages, were requested to appear before the Committee—in India directly, and abroad with the help of Indian Missions and Foreign Offices of the Governments of those countries. In addition, press notes were issued asking people who had information to give, to make it available to the Committee. The response to the press notes was encouraging. It may be mentioned here that throughout the period of its work, a large number of news items appeared in Indian and Japanese papers concerning the Committee's work. This was a measure of interest people continued to take in Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. In India the Committee examined five of the six persons who accompanied Netaji on his last flight from Bangkok including Mr. S. A. Ayer, Mr. Debnath Das and Col. Habibur Rehman. Col. Rehman came all the way from Pakistan to appear before the Committee. The Committee also examined General J. K. Bhonsle, Chief of the General Staff of the I.N.A. The Commission examined not only those who had information to give, but those who had theories to propound. Everybody was given a chance. The first witness called by the Committee was Mr. M. Thevar, M.L.A. (Madras), who had made several statements that he had been in contact with Netaji recently. Unfortunately, Mr. Thevar refused to share his secret with the members of the Committee. The members of the Committee left India on the 26th of April, and the first halt was at Bangkok. Bangkok was one of the most important centres of the Indian Independence Movement, and was the headquarters of Netaji's Government when he retreated from Burma. There the witnesses examined included Sardar Ishar Singh and Pandit Raghunath Sharma, who were leading members of the Indian Independence League in Netaji's time. Saigon was also one of the centres of the Movement, and Netaji's plane took off from there. At Saigon the witnesses examined included Mr. Anand Mohan Sahay, Secretary-General to the Azad Hind Government, and now Indian Consul General, Hanoi. From Saigon, the members of the Committee flew out to have a look at Tourane on the Viet Nam coast, from where Netaji's plane took off on its fateful journey on the morning of the 18th August 1945.

3. The members of the Committee reached Tokyo (Japan) on the 5th of May and spent a month there. They found that Netaji's name was still a household word in Japan, and a great deal of interest was taken about him both by the public and the press. In addition to those witnesses who were called through the Japanese Foreign Office, a large number of Japanese witnesses volunteered and gave evidence, in response to newspaper notices. To mention one case, Mr. J. Nakamura, who was an Interpreter, and was present at Netaji's death-bed, although 70 years of age, came on his



own all the way from Kyushu, about 1,200 kilometres from Tokyo. The members of the Committee were much struck by the interest displayed by the Japanese public in their enquiry, and by the patience and courtesy with which Japanese witnesses stood long examination through an interpreter. They came from different walks of life. There were ex-soldiers and ex-Generals, businessmen and truck-drivers. The Committee was fortunate in being able to examine four of the six Japanese survivors of the plane crash, as well as two doctors who attended Netaji during his last hours.

4. The members of the Committee were anxious to visit Formosa which was the actual scene of occurrence of the plane crash, Netaji's death, and his cremation. There were difficulties in doing so, as there were no diplomatic relations between the Government of India and the authorities in Formosa. A reference was made to the Government of India, who informed the Committee that they did not consider a visit to Formosa feasible. So the attempt had to be given up.

5. After examining the witnesses, the Committee was engaged in studying the evidence recorded by them, as well as obtaining and reading all the papers concerning the last phase of Netaji, much of which was in the form of secret Intelligence Reports recorded immediately after the war. Books dealing with Netaji or the I.N.A. were also studied. Thereafter, the members of the Committee discussed the whole matter among themselves, and a list of points which was agreed upon by all the three members, including Shri Suresh Chandra Bose, was drawn up on the 30th June 1956. This paper was signed by all the three members, a copy of which will be found in Annexure I. All the members agreed then that there had been an air crash at Taihoku in Formosa, in which Netaji met his death; that he was cremated there, and the ashes now lying at the Renkoji temple in Tokyo are in all probability his ashes. Since then, for reasons of his own, Shri Bose has taken a different view and has not signed the report.

6. After going carefully through the evidence and relevant papers, the picture that emerged was like this:

In the last stages when Japan's defeat seemed inevitable, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was preparing to shift his struggle from South-East Asia to Russia via Manchuria. He left Bangkok on the 16th, and Saigon on the 17th August 1945, in an aeroplane bound for Manchuria. That plane crashed in flames at Taihoku in Formosa on the 18th August. As a result of serious burns sustained, Netaji died in a Taihoku hospital on the same night. His body was cremated at Taihoku. His ashes were flown to Tokyo early in September and deposited at Renkoji temple. Netaji carried some treasure with him, details of which cannot be ascertained. A small part of this treasure was salvaged, and subsequently



recovered. To bring out the above picture, it was decided that the Report should deal with the following points:

- (1) Last plans of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose
- (2) Air crash at Taihoku (Formosa)
- (3) Death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose
- (4) Cremation of Netaji's body
- (5) Netaji's ashes
- (6) Treasure

Each point is dealt with in a self-contained chapter. The conclusions of the Chairman and the other member who has signed the Report are also given in each chapter. In a final chapter (7), a suggestion has been made that Netaji's ashes should be brought to India with due honour. The Report is in two parts:

Part A — Report (with three annexures):

Annexure I—Copies of relevant papers.

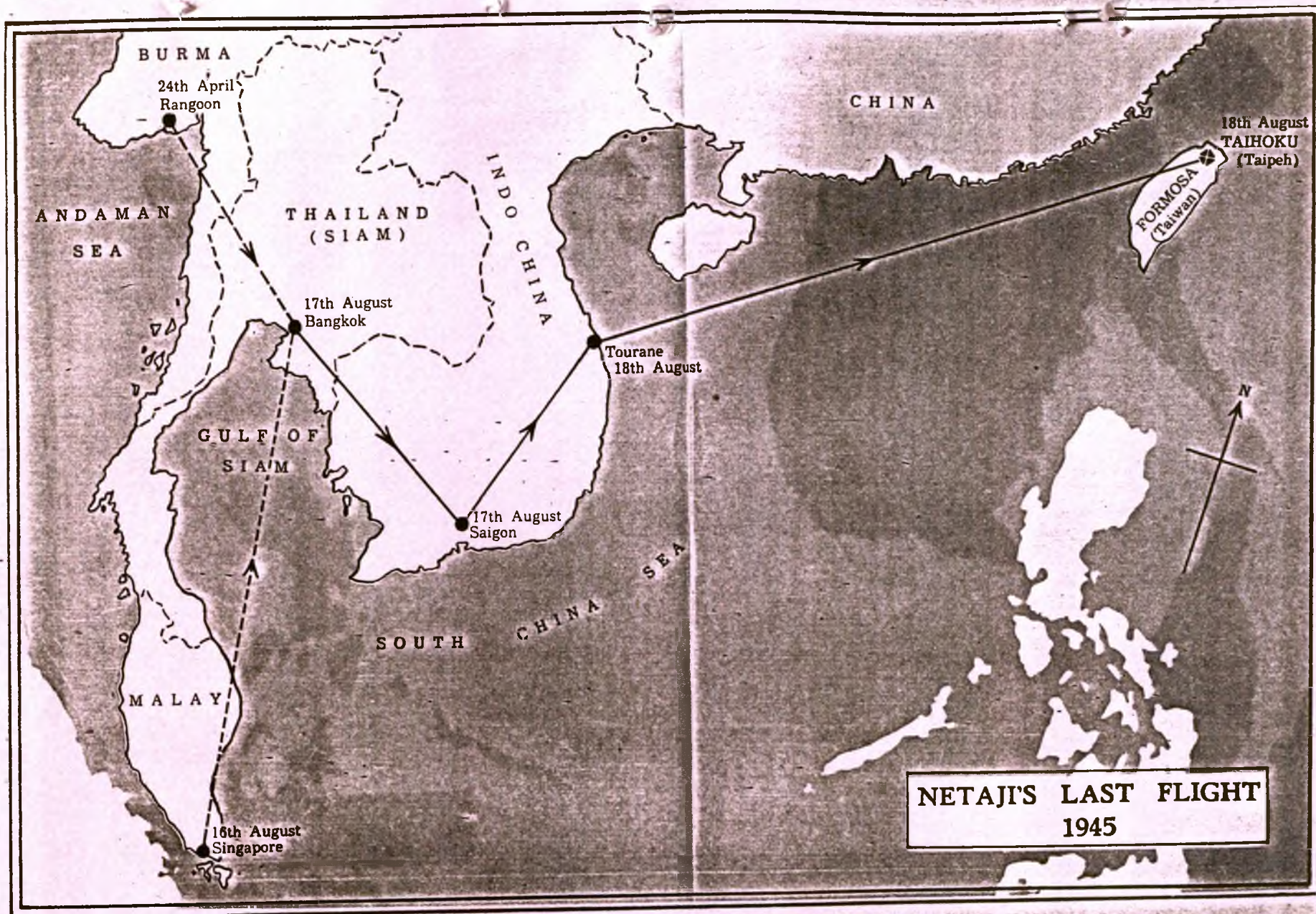
Annexure II—Photographs.

Annexure III—Sketches and plans.

Part B — Evidence of witnesses (with photographs of some witnesses).

7. A large number of witnesses were examined in Japan. Tracing the witnesses and securing their attendance would not have been possible without the ever-ready help and co-operation of the Japanese Foreign Office (Gaimusho). H.E. Mr. Shigemitsu, Foreign Minister of Japan, who had held the same position in Netaji's time, extended to the Committee every courtesy and consideration. The Committee wishes to thank the Government of Japan, Mr. Shigemitsu, and the staff of the Japanese Foreign Office, most sincerely for their help and kindness. The Indian Embassy in Tokyo also were very helpful. In particular, the Committee has pleasure in recording appreciation of the services of Mr. J. Rehman who was attached to the Committee throughout their stay in Japan. Assistance was also received from the Indian Missions at Bangkok and Saigon. The Committee wishes to thank the Ministries of Defence, External Affairs, and the Intelligence Bureau of the Home Ministry for lending secret Intelligence Reports. Shri R. Dayal, who was attached to the Chairman of the Committee as P.A., worked very hard from the very beginning to the end, and gave satisfaction all round. And finally, the Committee wishes to thank, with all sincerity, the Government of India, for making the arrangements for the work of the Committee, at home and abroad, and the opportunity given to them to make a first-hand study of an important chapter in the history of our times.







LAST PLANS OF NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

the terms of reference of the Committee are:

*"To enquire into and to report to the Government of India on the circumstances concerning the departure of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose from Bangkok about the 16th August 1945, his alleged death as a result of an aircraft accident, and subsequent developments connected therewith."*

2. We have been asked to write the last page which had up to now remained blank; but to do so, it is necessary to know a little of the background of the first and intermediate pages. Early in 1942, the Japanese armies overran large parts of South-East Asia, which had been under colonial domination by European powers, and in so doing, they released a great impetus to nationalism. There were three billion Indians in South-East Asia who took a leading part in this movement. They formed the Indian Independence League under Mr. Rash Behari Bose. Singapore fell on 15th February 1942, and the large British Indian Army stationed there surrendered. Out of this was formed the first Indian National Army under General Mohan Singh. This Movement, however, was without a real leader of sufficient political stature. From the very start, the movement was waiting for Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, who was then in Europe, having escaped from detention in India in 1941. After a long and perilous journey by submarine, Netaji arrived in South-East Asia, and took charge of the Indian Independence Movement on the 4th of July 1943. Soon after, he assumed supreme command of the Indian National Army. Addressing a review of the Indian National Army at Singapore on 5th July, he first uttered his famous battle-cry, 'CHALO DELHI!' 'DELHI CHALO!' On the 21st October 1943, the Provisional Government of Azad Hind was formed. There was great enthusiasm and men and money poured in. The Japanese Army had overrun Burma and was poised for the invasion of India through Assam. Troops of the Indian National Army were sent to the front, and they took a gallant part in the fighting around Imphal and Kohima. Netaji toured all over East Asia, and visited Japan more than once. Although belonging to a subject nation, and dependent on Japan for keeping his army in the field, he left an indelible impression of his personality on all those who came in contact with him. Even today, his name is a household word in South-East Asia and Japan. Between his arrival in Singapore in July 1943, and his departure from Bangkok in August 1945, barely two years passed,



but great things were attempted, and partly achieved, during this short period. Under the stress of war, the Indian Independence Movement in South-East Asia had some of the qualities of an epic. Its full story is yet to be written. The story can be divided into several chapters. The first chapter, the spring of hope, ended with the incursion into the fringes of India and the failure to take Imphal. That was in April 1944. There was lack of air-cover, artillery and food. Then the monsoons set in. The forward elements of the Indian National Army, along with the Japanese Army, fell back across the Chindwin in Upper Burma. The rivers were in flood and sick men were carried on the backs of their comrades. Many have heard of the historic march of the Communist Fourth Route Army across China to Yen-an, but few know the story of the heroic retreat of the I.N.A. across Burma. Netaji, however, was not daunted by failure, and continued to work hard at reorganising the I.N.A. Addressing a public meeting at Bangkok at this time, he said, "March to Delhi still continues to be our battle-cry. We may not march to Delhi *via* Imphal, but it must be borne in mind that, like Rome, there are many roads leading to Delhi."

3. There were changes in the Government of Japan and General Tojo was replaced by General Koiso. In October 1944 Netaji visited Japan for the third and last time to meet the Members of the new Government of Japan and discuss important matters with them. By that time there had been further reverses for the Axis powers in Europe, and for the Japanese in Asia. The British forces had advanced far into Burma, and were threatening Mandalay. The Americans were active in the Pacific. The chances of a Japanese victory seemed more and more remote. From the very outset, Netaji had declared that his battle was for the independence of India, and whatever happened to his Allies, Germans or Japanese, his war would continue till the liberation of India was achieved. From the time of his last visit to Japan Netaji looked out for another vantage-point from which to fight the British. He saw that the only country which could afford any assistance was Russia. He foresaw, and discussed with his Advisers, Members of his Government, and officers, that it would not be long before Russia fell out with the Anglo-Americans, and that the wartime alliance between the two was a temporary phase. He went even to the extent of predicting that there would be a third world-war in ten years' time between Russia on the one hand, and the Anglo-Americans on the other. Netaji felt that for him it would be good policy to take shelter in Russia, from where he could come out in time to continue his war of liberation against the British. On his way back from Tokyo in October 1944, Netaji met at Shanghai Mr. Anand Mohan Sahay who had long been in Japan. He asked Mr. Sahay to go to Tokyo and try to establish contact with the Soviet Ambassador there, Mr. Jacob Malik. Mr. Sahay, who is at



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present our Consul General in Hanoi, was examined at Saigon. He said that he sounded several important personalities, including the Foreign Minister, Mr. Shigemitsu, and the Home Minister, Mr. Uzawa, but they advised him that it would be useless to contact the Soviet Ambassador. So, Mr. Sahay returned to Singapore and told Netaji the result of his mission. The quest, however, was not given up. The question of a "second front" became urgent in the middle of 1945, after the retreat from Rangoon and the collapse of Germany. An official reference was made to the Government of Japan by Netaji to contact the Russian authorities on his behalf. Mr. Debnath Das has kindly supplied the Committee with a copy of the Japanese Government's reply which was received sometime in June 1945. After thanking Netaji for his continuing co-operation with Japan, it says, "Nippon Government deems it almost without hope of success to get directly in touch with the Soviet Government on behalf of Your Excellency, and it has no intention of doing so." Mr. Debnath Das has stated that about this time several alternative plans were considered. The first was to go to India and prepare for an armed revolution inside the country: Alternative, to go to Yenan (Communist China): And thirdly, to try and contact the Russians through the Japanese. The third alternative seemed to have found favour with Netaji. A direct approach to Russia seemed difficult; Manchuria, which was next door, and held by the Japanese forces, was increasingly considered as the best place to move to. But in case all these failed, Netaji advised Mr. Debnath Das to organise cells in South-East Asia which could be used for going underground.

4. About the same time, the movement of the Headquarters of the Indian National Army, and the Indian Independence League to China, was also seriously considered. General Isoda, who was the head of the Japanese Liaison Mission (Hikari Kikan), and through whom all correspondence with Japan passed, has given valuable information on this point. He has said that the first proposal was that the headquarters should be moved to Shanghai, but this did not materialise. There is reason to believe that the Japanese Southern Army Command felt that if Netaji moved out of South-East Asia, it would be difficult to control the I.N.A. The second alternative was that the Headquarters should be moved to Saigon, with branches at Shanghai and Peking, or some other city in North China. The reason for establishing a branch in North China was that Netaji would be nearer Russian territory, and be in a better position to contact the Soviet authorities. The Government of Japan and the Imperial General Headquarters were at first reluctant to accept this scheme, but they agreed when General Isoda explained to them that Netaji did not intend to cut off connection with Japan, but to have an alternative connection with Russia. This plan was apparently approved by the Government of Japan in the middle of May. By

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that time British forces had broken through at Meiktila and Rangoon was lost. Netaji stayed at Rangoon as long as possible, and moved out only at the last moment on the 24th April 1945. He retreated to Bangkok, arriving there on the 14th of May. The chapter of retreat which began at Imphal in June 1944 ended at Bangkok in May 1945. This was the second chapter of the I.N.A. story. The third chapter was brief. From Netaji's arrival in Bangkok on the 14th May, to his flight from Saigon on the 17th August, there were barely three months. To go back to the approved plan, before it could be given effect to, Netaji moved to Singapore, especially to broadcast a series of talks to India, not to accept the terms offered by the Viceroy, Lord Wavell. Even at that time, Netaji and his Advisers calculated that there would be at least six months' interval between the collapse of Germany, and the eventual surrender of Japan. It was hoped that by that time, the Headquarters would be shifted somewhere farther east, and some contact made with the Russians. But Russia declared war on Japan on August 9th and atom bombs were dropped by Americans on the Japanese mainland. All calculations were thus upset and Japan surrendered on the 15th August 1945.

5. Mr. S. A. Ayer in Chapter V of his book *Unto Him Witness* has vividly described the rush and turmoil of those days. Netaji was on a visit to Seramban in Malaya. On the 12th of August, Dr. Lakshmayya and Mr. Ganapathy of the Indian Independence League Headquarters rushed up in a car, and gave him the shattering news that Japan had surrendered. Netaji received this news in a calm and even carefree manner, typical of him. To quote Mr. Ayer's words, "He first broke into a smile, and almost his first words were: 'So that is that. Now, what next?'" It was the soldier speaking. He was already thinking of the next move and the next battle. He was not going to be beaten. Japan's surrender was not India's surrender." Netaji returned to Singapore immediately and held a non-stop series of conferences, night and day, with his Advisers and officers. Against their advice, Netaji was determined to remain behind and surrender at Singapore with his troops. But on the 14th evening they were joined by Mr. A. N. Sarkar, a Member of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind, who arrived from Bangkok with words from General Isoda, Chief of the Hikari Kikan and Mr. Hachiya, Japanese Minister to the Provisional Government of Azad Hind. Mr. Sarkar told Netaji that Messrs. Isoda and Hachiya were anxious to help him to get away from Malaya and Thailand to farther east, so that he would not fall into the hands of the Anglo-Americans. At last Netaji was persuaded not to remain behind at Singapore, and to proceed east. The final decision was, to quote Mr. Ayer, "Out of Malaya definitely, to some Russian territory certainly, to Russia itself, if possible." There



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were reasons why Netaji should go to Tokyo at that time. There was the pressing question whether the I.N.A. should surrender as part of the Japanese forces, or as a separate army. Netaji and his Advisers were anxious that there should be an independent surrender, as the I.N.A. represented an independent State. The Japanese Commander in Singapore could not give an answer as he had no instructions. Probably, the authorities in Tokyo only could give a definite answer. Mr. N. Kitazawa, a member of the House of Representatives, Japan, was examined by the Committee. During the war, he was a Counsellor attached to the Japanese Embassy in Rangoon. He has stated that a week before the surrender, the Japanese Government communicated to all Heads of States who were allied with them that they would be prepared to give them shelter in Japan. Accordingly, President Laurel of Philippines, Dr. Ba Maw of Burma, and Mr. Chenkun Pao, Head of the Chinese Government in Nanking, took refuge in Japan. So far as Mr. Kitazawa knew, this offer was communicated to Netaji by Mr. Hachiya. It is not certain whether Netaji accepted the offer because Netaji's concern throughout had been the continuance of his struggle, without any thought of personal safety. Mr. Kunizuka of the Hikari Kikan, who was attached to Netaji throughout the period, has stated that Netaji was not in favour of taking shelter in Japan, as Japan was a small country, and the Occupation Forces would be there soon. Perhaps, Netaji accepted it only as a gesture of courtesy.

6. On the 16th August Netaji came to Bangkok. Mr. Hachiya, the Japanese Minister to the Provisional Government of Azad Hind, met him and delivered to him a message which conveyed the decision of the Japanese Government to surrender. It thanked Netaji for the co-operation extended to them in the prosecution of war. The message also contained an offer from the Government of Japan to be of any assistance to him. Mr. Hachiya says that Netaji told him that the Government of Japan having surrendered unconditionally, they would not be in a position to afford any protection to him. He was, therefore, more inclined to contact Russia. About this, however, the local authorities at Bangkok could not give much help. All they could do was to carry him to Saigon, and discuss and take orders from Field Marshal Count Terauchi, who was the Japanese Supreme Commander in South-East Asia. Col. Yano, Staff Officer of that Command, knew that Netaji was coming, and that he wished to go to Russia. He has said that Field Marshal Terauchi could not give any decision himself, but wished that Netaji should proceed to Tokyo and discuss the matter with the Government of Japan. So, there were a number of reasons for Netaji to go to Tokyo, although his ultimate goal was Russia *via* Manchuria. General Isoda, who, as the head of the Hikari Kikan, was consulted by Netaji on his return to Bangkok, says that Netaji "expressed a

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desire to go to Russia. I promised to give all the help that I could give to Netaji. . . . Eventually, the plan that was finally settled was that Netaji would first go to Tokyo, thank the Japanese Government for all the assistance that they had given him . . . and then proceed to Russia via Manchuria."

7. There was no time then to contact Russian authorities or to make out detailed plans ahead. Russia was at war with Japan, and the Russian armies were advancing into Manchuria. Even if Netaji reached Manchuria, what would happen to him and the few trusted lieutenants, whom he wanted to take with him, was uncertain. All that he could hope was that they would be taken prisoners first, establish their *bona fides* as fighters for India's freedom, and later on secure Russian assistance for their objective. The details were uncertain; the purpose was fixed. Netaji himself described his last journey as "an adventure into the unknown". He chose Col. Habibur Rehman, Major Abid Hasan, Col. Gulzara Singh and Col. Pritam Singh, Mr. Debnath Das and Mr. S. A. Ayer to accompany him, but they were not told where he was going. They all knew vaguely that they were going to Manchuria. General Bhonsle, Chief of the General Staff, who was left behind by Netaji in charge of the I.N.A. says, "On the eve of his departure, I enquired from Netaji whether he had been able to decide where he would make for finally, after his discussions with the Japanese Government, and his reply was that he was hoping to go to Russia, but that he would talk over the matter further with the Japanese Government." At Saigon, also by chance, Netaji was met by Lt. General Shidei, who was proceeding as Chief of Staff of the Kwantung Army in Manchuria. General Shidei was a leading Japanese expert on matters Russian. According to Mr. Negishi, who was with the party up to Saigon, it was suggested that Netaji should accompany General Shidei to Manchuria, and he apparently fell in with the suggestion. The plane was proceeding to Tokyo by the following route: Saigon—Heita—Taihoku (Formosa)—Dairen (Manchuria)—Tokyo. A little element of doubt remained whether Netaji would proceed by the same plan to Tokyo or break the journey at Dairen. Japan had surrendered. There was profound depression, and the elaborate machinery of the Government was running down. Netaji was flying two days after surrender for an uncertain destination. It was indeed a leap in the dark. From this leap he did not return.



## CHAPTER II

### AIR CRASH AT TAIHOKU (FORMOSA)

In pursuance of his plan, Netaji was moving out of South-East Asia. He left Singapore on the morning of 16th August 1945, with Col. Habibur Rehman, Col. Pritam Singh, Mr. S. A. Ayer and Mr. Negishi, the Japanese Interpreter, and arrived at Bangkok, the same afternoon. It was arranged that Messrs. Thivy, Chatterjee and Raghavan would follow him. At Bangkok he held meetings with his Ministers, Military Advisers, leading members of the Indian Independence League, and made last-minute dispositions. General Bhonsle was to be left in command of the Indian National Army, and a Committee consisting of Sardar Ishar Singh, Pandit Raghunath Sharma and Shri Permanand was to look after the affairs of the League at Bangkok. Large donations were made to the Chulalongkorn Hospital and University, the Indian Association, Bangkok, and the Thai-Bharat Cultural Lodge, and all officers and men were sanctioned two or three months' pay. A small number of Civil and Military Advisers and officers were selected by Netaji to accompany him. These were:

Col. Habibur Rehman,  
Major Abid Hasan,  
Col. Pritam Singh,  
Col. Gulzara Singh,  
Mr. Debnath Das, and  
Mr. S. A. Ayer.

The movement plan was as usual discussed with General Isoda, Chief of the Japanese Liaison Mission (Hikari Kikan). The latter arranged for two aeroplanes to take the party to Saigon. Saigon was the Headquarters of the Southern Army commanded by Field Marshal Count Terauchi, who was in overall command of all Japanese forces in South-East Asia. Arrangements for transport beyond Saigon were to be made by the Headquarters of that Command.

2. On the morning of the 17th August (slightly different times are given by different witnesses) Netaji and his party arrived at Bangkok Aerodrome. They were seen off by a large number of officers and leaders of the Indian National Army and Indian Independence League. General Isoda of the Hikari Kikan, Mr. Hachiya, the Japanese Envoy to the Provisional Government of Azad Hind, and Mr. Negishi (Interpreter) also accompanied Netaji up to Saigon. In addition to Netaji's personal kit packed in three or four suit-cases, two large suit-cases about 36" long were also put on board



the plane. The two large suit-cases contained gold ornaments and other valuables—more will be heard of them later. The party travelled in two aeroplanes and arrived safely at Saigon. There is some variation in the time of arrival at Saigon as given by different witnesses. Shri Debnath Das says that they arrived at 8 A.M., whereas, according to Col. Habibur Rehman, the time of arrival was 10 A.M., which is also the time mentioned by Mr. S. A. Ayer. From the aerodrome, the party drove into the town, and took rest in two houses belonging to an Indian gentleman, Mr. Chotir Mal. Whereas in Bangkok, important witnesses were available, unfortunately at Saigon, most of the Indians, who were active in Netaji's time, were no longer there. One alleged eye-witness was an Indian darwan, Ramneo Gosai. He said that Netaji came to the bungalow, accompanied only by two Japanese officers and left hurriedly after having lunch. The statement of this witness may be ascribed to failing memory after eleven years. One Mr. Narain Das, then of the Indian Independence League, Saigon, and now of Tangier, has said that Ramneo told him the same story. Against his testimony, we have the evidence of the much more reliable persons who accompanied Netaji to Saigon. This witness also said that Messrs. Ayer and Chatterjee left that bungalow in Saigon only two days before Netaji's arrival, and that Netaji was enquiring about them. In point of fact, Mr. Ayer was actually accompanying Netaji.

3. At Saigon, however, the arrangements did not work according to expectation. No special plane was available to carry Netaji and his party. F.M. Terauchi's Headquarters had been informed beforehand by the Hikari Kikan of Netaji's pending arrival at Saigon. Col. Yano who was on the staff of the Southern Army has stated that F.M. Terauchi had decided that Netaji should reach Tokyo as soon as possible, but owing to difficulty in obtaining passages by aeroplane, Netaji alone should go. The Headquarters of Southern Army at that time was located at Dalat, a short distance from Saigon, and there were officers posted at Saigon to carry out the orders of the Headquarters. The actual arrangements for transport by air were being made by Lt. Col. Kojima, while Lt. Col. Tada, a Staff Officer from the Headquarters, Southern Army, who usually dealt with the Hikari Kikan, met Netaji's party which included General Isoda. Lt. Col. Tada informed General Isoda that only one seat was available for Netaji in a plane that was leaving Saigon very soon the same day. General Isoda was naturally annoyed, and proceeded at once to Dalat to speak to F.M. Terauchi. On arrival at Dalat Airport, General Isoda was informed by Col. Yano that it was no use seeing the Field Marshal, but he advised him to wait a little at the aerodrome. In point of fact, the Headquarters was in a state of confusion following the Japanese surrender three days earlier. Soon afterwards, General Numata, Chief of General Staff of the



Southern Army, rang up General Isoda and told him that he had brought the matter to the notice of the Field Marshal, and 2 or 3 seats besides that of Netaji would be available in a plane shortly. With this assurance General Isoda returned to Saigon, but there he was again met by Lt. Col. Tada, who gave him the disappointing information that the final decision was that only one seat besides Netaji's would be available. When the first proposal of only one seat was broached, Netaji turned it down flat. He insisted that the entire party of his officers and Advisers should go with him. There was a lot of discussion on this subject between Netaji and his Advisers on the one hand, and the Japanese officers on the other. His Advisers thought that Netaji should not go all by himself. According to Mr. Debnath Das, who was an Adviser in the Provisional Government of Azad Hind, the Japanese officers had said that Saigon was no longer safe on account of Allied and insurgent activities, and, therefore, Netaji should move on as quickly as possible. When the second offer of two seats was made, there were further discussions. During the course of these discussions, according to Col. Pritam Singh of the I.N.A., the Japanese gave out that as the Allied Forces had restricted the flights of their planes after surrender, they could not be sure whether aeroplanes would be available in the future, and advised Netaji to accept the two seats offered. In the end, Netaji reluctantly agreed to accept these two seats, but on condition that those who were left behind were provided with transport on the following day. General Isoda promised to do his best.

4. Netaji selected Col. Habibur Rehman to accompany him. His choice was apparently approved of by the rest of his party, as he was a Senior Staff Officer, and had been in close touch with Netaji for a long time. This has been mentioned by Col. Pritam Singh and Col. Gulzara Singh of the I.N.A. Netaji still did not give up hope of getting more seats in the plane. He told all members of his party to pack up their kit, and come with him to the aerodrome to try their luck. On arrival at Saigon Airport, however, the party was disappointed, as only two seats were available. Netaji's baggage was unloaded from his car. The Chief Pilot said that the baggage was too heavy, and could not be put on the plane, as it was already overloaded. Consequently, Netaji himself discarded a part of his baggage containing books, clothes, etc. The party came to the aerodrome in two cars. Netaji came in the first car. While all these arguments and arrangements were being made, the plane was waiting at the aerodrome. There were a number of Japanese officers who were to go in the same plane. The Japanese were very impatient to start, but this was delayed for about half an hour or so for the arrival of the second car. This car carried two leather suitcases containing jewellery, etc., and Netaji refused to move without

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them. The plane was already overloaded, and there were protests against loading it any more. In spite of this, the heavy treasure boxes were loaded into the plane. Among the Japanese passengers was a distinguished Military Officer, Lt. Gen. Shidei, lately Chief of the General Staff of the Burma Army, who was proceeding to Manchuria as Chief of Staff of the Kwantung Army. General Shidei came out of the plane and greeted Netaji. Although there was an element of chance in Netaji's travelling by the same plane as General Shidei, it appears that Netaji fell in with the idea that he should go up to Dairen (Manchuria) with General Shidei. Mr. Negishi, at that time an Interpreter attached to Netaji's Headquarters, says, "General Shidei was supposed to be an expert on Russian affairs in the Japanese army, and was considered to be a key man for negotiations with Russia. It was suggested that Netaji should accompany him to Manchuria." It may be mentioned here that before he took up the job of Interpreter, he was working in the important firm of Mitusbishi, and is now the head of that firm in India. Lt. Col. Nonogaki, an Air Staff Officer of the Japanese Army, says, "The plane was scheduled to carry General Shidei to Manchuria. Netaji agreed to go with him to Dairen in Manchuria. So there was no change in the schedule of the plane." The plane itself was a twin-engined heavy bomber of 97-2 (Sally) type, and belonged to the Third Air Force Army stationed at Singapore. There is divergence of opinion on whether it was a new or an old plane. According to Captain Arai and Major Kono, the plane was of the newest type. General Isoda goes so far as to say that it was a brand new one. But Lt. Col. Nonogaki has stated that it was an old plane. General Isayama says that the engine of the plane was worn out. It is unlikely that the plane was a brand new one. The Ground Engineer Captain Nakamura alias Yamamoto has stated that, while testing the engine at Taihoku, the Chief Pilot Major Takizawa had told him that the port engine had been replaced by a brand new one at Saigon. A brand new plane would not require the replacement of an engine.

5. Besides General Shidei, the plane was carrying five other Japanese military officers as passengers. These were:

Lt. Col. Tadeo Sakai, a Staff Officer of the Burma Army.

Lt. Col. Shiro Nonogaki, an Air Staff Officer.

Major Taro Kono, an Air Staff Officer.

Major Ihaho Takahashi, a Staff Officer.

Capt. Keikichi Arai, an Air Force Engineer.

Lt. Col. Sakai is now in Formosa on a special mission. The others are now civilians. Lt. Col. Nonogaki is now the Branch Manager at Osaka of the firm of Tokyo Kagyo Byoeiki Shokai Ltd. Major Kono has his printing business in Tokyo. Major Takahashi lives at Kanagawa city in Zushi prefecture. Captain Arai is a lecturer at



the Tokyo and Kieo Universities. The crew consisted of five or six persons:

Chief Pilot—Major Takizawa,

Co-pilot—W/O Ayoagi,

Navigator—Sergeant Okishta,

Radio-Operator—N.C.O. Tominaga,

and one or two engineers, whose names have not come out. Including Netaji and his Adjutant, Col. Habibur Rehman, the plane carried 13 or 14 persons in all. Netaji was in uniform wearing a khaki drill bush-shirt, trousers and shoes, with I.N.A. cap and badges. He bade good-bye to all those who had come to see him, and shook hands with them, telling them that they would meet him soon. After that, he boarded the plane through an entrance on the port side followed by Col. Habibur Rehman. That was the last time his faithful followers, whom he left behind, saw him.

6. At the instance of General Shidei, Lt. Col. Nonogaki made arrangements for the seating of the passengers. As there were no proper seats, passengers had to squat on the floor, Netaji being provided with a cushion. General Shidei, Netaji and Col. Habibur Rehman were given the best seats. General Shidei took the seat usually occupied by the Co-pilot. The crew were in the nose of the plane, while the other military passengers took their seats in the rear of the plane. Col. Habibur Rehman has given a detailed description of the seating arrangements, which is reproduced below, and has illustrated it by sketch:

"The number of occupants in the plane including the crew was 12 or 13. In the nose portion of the plane were probably a Co-pilot, a Radio Officer and Navigator. The seat of the Pilot was behind them on the port side, and opposite to him on the star-board side was sitting Lt. Gen. Shidei. Immediately behind the Pilot was sitting Netaji, and nobody opposite to him, as the space was restricted by the petrol tanks. I was sitting immediately behind Netaji. The Co-pilot's seat occupied by Lt. Gen. Shidei was offered to Netaji but he did not accept, as it was too small for him. In the turret was standing one officer of the Air Force, and in the rear portion probably 4 other officers of the Japanese Air Force or Army. I do not exactly remember their ranks, except the names of one Lt. Col. Nonogaki and of Capt. Arai whom I met later, after the crash, in the hospital."

The Committee has examined four of Col. Habibur Rehman's fellow-passengers, namely, Lt. Col. Nonogaki, Major Kono, Major Takahashi and Captain Arai. Regarding seating arrangements, the versions of the different witnesses tally to a great extent. They all say the same thing about the relative positions of Netaji, General



Shidei and Col. Habibur Rehman and the fact that the crew were in the nose and the other officers at the back. There are, however, some discrepancies as to the number of the crew; some say it was four, others say it was five. There is, however, an important difference regarding Major Kono. According to Col. Habibur Rehman and Captain Arai, Major Kono was in the rear, but Major Kono says that he sat ahead of Netaji and talked to him during the flight. Col. Nonogaki also confirms this position. In the first written statement, dated 24-8-1945, by Col. Habibur Rehman, which was handed over to the Committee by Mr. J. Murti, it was however stated that there was a Japanese officer sitting between the Pilot and Netaji. So it seems more or less certain that Major Kono was sitting in the front of the plane.

7. The plane took off quite well from Saigon Airfield in the afternoon of the 17th August. There is some difference about the exact time, but most witnesses say that the plane took off between 5 and 5-30 P.M. As there was delay in starting, the Pilot decided to halt for the night at Tourane on the Indo-China coast, instead of flying straight to Formosa. Tourane was reached safely in a couple of hours. There Netaji and the other officers spent the night at the largest hotel in the town. Although the witnesses examined by the Committee could not give the name of the hotel, there is reason to believe that the hotel in question was Hotel Morin which the Committee visited during their trip to the Far East. While taking off at Saigon, the plane had to run the entire length of the runway before it was airborne. This showed that it was overloaded. While the others rested at Tourane, the Chief Pilot, assisted by Major Kono, both Air Force Officers, were busy making the plane lighter. According to Major Kono, no fewer than 12 anti-aircraft machine-guns, and all the ammunition were taken down from the plane. Some surplus luggage was also discarded, and the total weight reduced by 600 kilos. Thereafter these officers attended to the maintenance of the plane and satisfied themselves that everything was correct.

8. An early start was made next morning (18th August) at about 5 A.M. when the sun was rising. The passengers and crew took their seats in the same order as before. The plane was to follow the route: Saigon—Tourane—Heito (Formosa)—Taihoku (Formosa)—Dairen (Manchuria)—Tokyo. According to Major Takahashi, the normal route for aeroplanes at that time was to proceed to Tokyo via Dairen (Manchuria). The plane was much lighter and the take-off was very normal. During the flight from Tourane to Heito, the weather was perfect and the engines worked smoothly. The plane was flying at an altitude of about 12,000 ft. and it was quite cold inside the plane. As the weather was favourable, it was decided to cover some more distance, pass over



Heito, and land at Taihoku which is the Japanese name for Taipei, capital of Formosa. According to Major Kono, during the flight, information was received that the Russians had occupied Port Arthur. It was feared that they might be in Dairen before long, and it became all the more necessary to reach there as quickly as possible. The plane landed safely and smoothly at Taihoku Airfield sometime in the afternoon. The landing time has been stated by different witnesses to be between 11 A.M. and 2 P.M.

9. On landing, everybody got down from the plane and walked to a nearby tent, rested there, and had light lunch of sandwiches and bananas. The tent had been pitched for a Japanese prince who was expected to pass through Taihoku. The prince was carrying orders from the Emperor to various Army Commanders to surrender. As the plane had been flying high, Col. Habibur Rehman was feeling cold, and on landing, changed into warm serge uniform of bush-coat, breeches and top-boots. He asked Netaji, who said that he did not feel cold. All the same, Col. Habibur Rehman handed him a pull-over. It is not clear whether Netaji did put on the warm pullover or not. Different witnesses have given the time of halt at Taihoku Airfield from half an hour to two hours. During this time, the plane was re-fuelled. The engines of the plane were also tested and checked. This was done by the Chief Pilot Major Takizawa, helped by Major Kono and the ground staff of the aerodrome, headed by Captain Nakamura *alias* Yamamoto. As the state of the engine has an important bearing on the subsequent crash, it might be worthwhile to quote the relevant portions from the statements of Major Kono and Captain Nakamura *alias* Yamamoto. Major Kono says, "Mr. Takizawa tested it inside, and I tested it from outside. I noticed that the engine of the left side of the plane was not functioning properly. I therefore, went inside the plane and after examining the engine inside, I found it to be working all right. . . . An engineer also accompanies the plane. He was accompanying it on this occasion also. I do not remember his name. He also tested the engine and certified its air-worthiness." Captain Nakamura *alias* Yamamoto who was the Ground Engineer in charge of maintenance at Taihoku Aerodrome says, "At about 1-20 P.M. Major Takizawa and Co-pilot Ayoagi got into the plane and tested it. I was standing just in front of the plane. When they started the engine, I found that one of them was defective. I raised my hand to indicate to him (Major Takizawa) that the engine of the left side was defective. On my signal indicating that the engine was defective, Major Takizawa leaned out to listen to me. I told him that the left engine was defective, and should be put right. Major Takizawa slowed down the engine and told me that it was a brand new engine which had been replaced at Saigon. After slowing down the engine, he adjusted it for about 5 minutes. The engine was tested twice by Major



Takizawa. After being adjusted, I satisfied myself that the condition of the engine was all right. Major Takizawa also agreed with me that there was nothing wrong with the engine."

10. Thereafter, all the passengers, after having had their rest and lunch, took their seats again in the plane in the same order of seating as before, that is to say, with the crew in the nose of the plane, Major Kono sitting behind the pilot on the port side, behind them Netaji and Col. Habibur Rehman, on the star-board side General Shidei, and in the rear portion the other Japanese officers. Although the engines had been tested, the take-off from Taihoku was not quite normal. The best account of the take-off has been given by Captain Nakamura *alias* Yamamoto, who was a Ground Engineer, and who was watching the plane. The other passengers inside the bomber could not see very much, as there were very few openings. There is some difference between the witnesses as to the actual time of the taking-off, but most of them put the time between 2 and 2-30 in the afternoon. Captain Nakamura *alias* Yamamoto says, "After everybody had taken seat in the plane, the plane taxied to one end of the runway. Having reached the point, the engines of the plane speeded up to the maximum speed, and then slowed down. This was a normal procedure which all Japanese planes followed to test the fitness of the engines. Having satisfied that the engines were correct, the plane was speeded and allowed to run down the runway. The length of the runway was 890 metres. In the case of heavy bombers, normally the tail gets lifted half-way down the runway but in this case, the tail was not lifted off the ground until it had run approximately 3/4ths down the runway. At that time I was standing at a point which was about 30 metres away from the air-strip. About 50 metres before the end of the runway, the plane took off and made a steep ascent." The plane had carried the distinguished leader of the Indian Independence Movement and his fellow-passengers, from Saigon to Tourane, and from Tourane to Formosa over the South China Sea in safety, and nobody had any idea that disaster would overtake the plane without warning and so soon after leaving Taihoku Airfield.

11. Hardly had the plane got airborne, when a loud explosion was heard, and the plane tilted to the left. Col. Habibur Rehman has said that it was a noise like a cannon shot. The propeller and the port engine fell out. Captain Nakamura *alias* Yamamoto who was watching says, "Immediately on taking off, the plane tilted to its left side and I saw something fall down from the plane, which I later found was the propeller." Major K. Sakai who came to the scene sometime later says that he found the port engine buried in the ground. The Pilot Major Takizawa and the Co-pilot Ayoagi made desperate attempts to save the situation but without success. The list could not be rectified within the short height that the



plane had gained. Witnesses inside the plane have given different estimates of the height, but most of them say that the maximum height gained was about 30 metres. Captain Nakamura *alias* Yamamoto, who had the best view, has estimated the height between 30 to 40 metres. Mr. A. M. N. Sastri, an Aircraft Inspector of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Government of India, has said, in answer to a question, that considering that the aircraft left the ground 50 metres before the end of the runway and started climbing, the figure of 30 to 40 metres given by witness Captain Nakamura *alias* Yamamoto appeared to him to be reasonable. The plane nose-dived, making a wailing noise. The passengers inside the plane had not even seat-belts and naturally lost their balance. The baggage came tumbling down. Col. Habibur Rehman has said that he was struck in the back by some of the packages. Captain Arai has graphically described his feelings by saying that the earth was rushing towards him. Major Kono had the presence of mind to try and switch off the ignition to prevent the plane from catching fire, but failed to do so as he could not keep his balance. He fell two or three times in the attempt. The plane crashed to the ground and immediately caught fire in the front portion. According to Mr. A. M. N. Sastri, it would take only 3 seconds to fall from a height of 50 metres. Some witnesses, like Lt. Col. Nonogaki, have stated that the plane crashed on the concrete runway; on the other extreme, Col. Habibur Rehman has said that the crash took place one or two miles outside the aerodrome. The most credible version is probably that of the Ground Engineer, Captain Nakamura *alias* Yamamoto, who says that the plane crashed about 100 metres beyond the concrete runway. His version is supported by Major Sakai who was in command of defence of Taihoku Aerodrome. He says that he saw the wreckage of the plane lying 20 to 30 metres from the end of the runway. One of the passengers, Major Takahashi, also says that the crash took place just outside the concrete runway, but within the boundary of the aerodrome.

12. As the plane came down on its nose, it crashed on its left side and caught fire in its front portion. It appears from the statement of witnesses that the plane also suffered severe damage, and broke into two. Captain Arai, Lt. Col. Nonogaki and Major Kono have stated that on crashing the plane broke into two. They have illustrated the point at which the plane broke into two by supplying sketches of the plane. Major Sakai who came to the scene immediately after the accident and saw the wreckage of the plane also supports this version. On the other hand, according to Col. Habibur Rehman, the plane split in the front portion, while Capt. Nakamura *alias* Yamamoto is positive that the plane was intact and the body was not broken. He, however, says that the fire was confined to the front part of the plane. It is likely that the plane, on

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falling to the ground, would sustain damage to its structure. So, on examining the probabilities and weight of evidence, a major breakage in the rear part of the fuselage may be accepted. There might have been breakages and splits elsewhere also. But from a study of the photographs of the wreckage (Annexure II) it does not appear that the broken parts got separated nor is any support lent to the statement of Lt. Col. Nonogaki that the two split parts went in different directions on the ground.

13. What happened to the persons inside the aeroplane? The crash affected different persons differently. Of the seven persons in the plane who ultimately survived, the Committee has examined in person five of them, and read the statement recorded by a sixth, Lt. Col. T. Sakai. Lt. Col. Nonogaki who was in the turret was the luckiest. As the plane crashed, he was thrown out to the ground almost unhurt. He got up and ran away from the burning plane, and took shelter behind a pile of stones, against which the wrecked plane ultimately came to a halt. Lt. Col. Sakai, Major Takahashi and Captain Arai became senseless the moment the plane crashed, but found themselves soon after on the ground, and moved away from the burning plane. Clearly, they had been thrown out. In the process, they received injuries and burns. Lt. Col. Sakai stated that he received bruises on his head and some other parts, and burns on his face and hands, but they were not serious. Major Takahashi's left ankle was sprained. Injuries of Captain Arai were more serious. The right side of his face, the upper side of both his hands and the front portion of his forearm got burnt. Marks of these burns were still visible when he appeared before the Committee 11 years later. Major Kono was clearly an alert and observant person. At the moment of crash, instead of being flustered, he had his wits about him, and noticed what others were doing. He says, "As the plane was falling to the ground, the petrol tank inside the plane fell down, and came between me and Mr. Bose. I looked backwards but could not see Mr. Bose because of this tank. I could see General Shidei after the plane crash. He had a cut injury at the back of his head. Major Takizawa was hit in the face and on forehead by the steering which he was operating. N.C.C. Ayoagi was hit in the chest which was bleeding, and he was leaning forward. There was another engineer between me and N.C.C. Ayoagi. I do not know what happened to him. During this time the fire spread greatly and the heat became unbearable. I broke open the plastic cover on top of the plane and escaped through it. While escaping, the fire was so strong that I had to protect my eyes by covering them with my hands which, as a result, got burnt, and my face and legs were also burnt. As I was escaping from the plane, I got splashed by petrol which was coming out from a pipe which connected the petrol tank with the engine which had been brought



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*Air crash at Taihoku*

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*Major Kono's hands, which got burnt in the air*



down. The petrol which was so splashed caught fire. I ran about 30 metres and then rolled on the ground and put out the fire; at the same time, I also took off my outer garment which had caught fire. In this way, I managed to put out the fire that was burning on me."

It may be mentioned here that Major Kono was under treatment for 18 months, and even after the protracted treatment the skin of his face looked severely burnt when he appeared before the Committee 11 years after. He lost all his teeth and wore false teeth. Four of the fingers of his right hand, i.e., excepting the thumb, were damaged and misshapen, and he could not clinch his right fist. The little finger of the left hand was also damaged and he could not clinch that fist in full. Both his hands were deformed. A picture of Major Kono's pair of hands was taken. They tell their own story.

14. Now we come to Col. Habibur Rehman and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. An extract from the statement of Col. Habibur Rehman as to what happened to him and Netaji immediately after the crash is given below *in extenso*:

"Within a few seconds, the plane crashed on the ground; and fore-portion of the plane split and caught fire. Netaji turned towards me. I said, 'Please get out through the front: there is no way in the rear.' (*Augey Say Nikaleay, Pichay Say Rasta Nahin Hay*). We could not get through the entrance door as it was all blocked and jammed by packages and other things. So Netaji got out through the fire; actually he rushed through the fire. I followed him through the same flames. The moment I got out, I saw him about 10 yards ahead of me, standing, looking in the opposite direction to mine towards the west. His clothes were on fire. I rushed and I experienced great difficulty in unfastening his bush-shirt belt. His trousers were not so much on fire and it was not necessary to take them off. He was not wearing the sweater. He was wearing khaki drill. I laid him down on the ground and noticed a very deep cut on his head, probably on the left side. His face had been scorched by heat and his hair had also caught fire and singed. The cut in his head was a long one, about 4 inch. I tried to stop his bleeding by handkerchief. As for myself, both my hands were very badly burnt. As I came through the fire, the right side of my face was burnt and I noticed I had received a cut in the forehead which was bleeding and the right side of my right knee was also bleeding profusely, as it had hit some hard substance. The head cut was caused by hitting the floor as the plane crashed. My clothes did not catch fire. My hands were burnt very badly in the attempt to take off Netaji's clothes. Both my hands up to the wrist show marks of deep burning even.

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after a lapse of more than ten years. Later on, even my nail came off. The nail of the left thumb has not come up properly.

(NOTE)—The members of the Committee examined the hands and saw marks of severe burns. Marks of burns were also noticed on the right side of the face and just near the right ear. In marks were also seen on the forehead and right leg.)

"When I laid Netaji on the ground, I myself lay by his side. I was feeling acute pain and felt exhausted. I saw a Japanese messenger about 20 yards away bleeding profusely and moaning. Then, Netaji enquired from me in Hindustani: *Aap Ko Zia Nahin Lagi?* (Hope you have not been hurt badly.) I replied, 'I feel that I will be all right.' About himself he said that he would not survive. I replied, 'Oh! No, God will help you. I am sure you will be all right.' He said, 'No, I don't think so.' He used these words:

"When you go back to the country, tell the people that the last I have been fighting for the liberation of my country should continue to struggle, and I am sure India will be free before long. Nobody can keep India in bondage now."

(*Jab Apney Mulk Wapis Jayen To Mulki Bhaiyon Ko Ek Ki Men Akhri Dam Tak Mulk Ki Azadi Key Liyay Larta Hoon; Woh Jange Azadi Ko Jari Rakhen. Hindustan Zaroor Hoga, Us Ko Koi Gulam Nahin Rakh Sakta.*)"

In a way this was Netaji's last testament and very characteristic of him. It was in keeping with the oath he took to fight for the independence of India till his last breath when he established the Provisional Government of Azad Hind on 21st October 1944.

15. Lt. Col. Sakai and Captain Arai do not mention that they had seen Netaji immediately after the crash. Lt. Col. Nozaki did. He says, "When I first saw Netaji after the plane crash, he was standing somewhere near the left tip of the left wing of the plane. His clothes were on fire and his Assistant was trying to take off his coat. He took off Netaji's coat quickly but was in difficulty in taking off the woollen sweater. Since Netaji was standing very near the petrol tank, he was splashed all over with petrol. It seemed that all his body was on fire." Major Kono says that he saw Netaji standing very near the plane facing away from it. He was standing erect with his legs apart and stretched downwards with clenched fists. He was completely naked and was wearing only his shoes. He did not see any marks on his body. Major Kono goes on to say that while he was feeling the heat of the flames 30 metres away, Netaji was standing a couple of metres away from them, seemed to be oblivious of the heat. His face did not show any sign of pain. Col. Habibur Rehman moved him away from the burning



Major Takahashi gives a somewhat different version. He says that he saw Netaji getting out from the left front portion of the plane. His clothes were on fire and he was trying to take off his coat. Then he says that he (Major Takahashi) went up to Netaji and made him roll on the ground and managed to put out the fire from his clothes. He says that Col. Habibur Rehman was there, but assigns him a passive role. He goes on to say that petrol had splashed only on certain parts of Netaji's clothes and only those patches were burnt. His trousers were burnt only slightly. While other witnesses have said that Netaji had to take off his clothes and was naked, Major Takahashi says that Netaji had his clothes on. As for Netaji's clothes being on fire, all the eye-witnesses who had seen him agree. As for who helped to put out the fire, it seems much more likely that Col. Habibur Rehman should have been the man to have come to the aid of his leader. The version given by Col. Habibur Rehman and supported by the two more observant witnesses, namely, Lt. Col. Nonogaki and Major Kono appears more credible than the version of Major Takahashi. The Ground Engineer Captain Nakamura *alias* Yamamoto has given a completely different version. He also says that Netaji's clothes were splashed with petrol and had to be stripped, but he claims that it was he (Captain Nakamura *alias* Yamamoto) who rescued the passengers from the burning plane, and specially Netaji. This version is completely uncorroborated by anybody else, and may perhaps be put down to confused recollection after such a lapse of time.

16. Of the other Japanese inside the plane, passengers and crew, General Shidei could not get out and died inside the plane. It may be of interest to mention that a copy of General Shidei's service record (translated in English) was obtained through the Japanese Foreign Office, a copy of which is enclosed (Annexure I). It will be seen that the date of his death was 18th August 1945 at Taihoku Airfield. The cause is given as death by war. His ashes were sent to Tokyo a week later through General Tanaka, Chief of General Staff, Burma Army, who passed through Taihoku a week later *en route* to Tokyo with Dr. Ba Maw, President of Burma. Some of the crew were apparently rescued. There is some doubt about the fate of the two pilots and some of the crew who were initially trapped inside the plane. Captain Nakamura *alias* Yamamoto definitely says that Pilot Takizawa and Co-pilot Ayoagi perished along with General Shidei, and he helped to bury their entrails and put their ashes in three boxes. But Major Kono says that he heard that Co-pilot Ayoagi had been pulled out. The two Doctors, Yoshimi and Tsuruta, definitely say that they had treated Co-pilot Ayoagi who died later in the hospital. From all this it would appear that General Shidei died instantaneously. One or two others also died

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with him, but it is not certain who they were. Most likely Major Takizawa, Chief Pilot, was one of them. The rest, passengers and crew numbering about a dozen, were removed within a short time to Nanmon (South Gate) Military Hospital which was a few kilometres away, in motor vehicles, trucks, cars, and a peculiar vehicle, called "Shidoşa" in Japanese, which was used for starting aeroplane propellers.

17. Before going on with the story of medical treatment in the hospital, account may conveniently be taken here regarding the air crash—whether the crash took place, its cause, and whether there could be any survivor. From the evidence given to the Committee, there is sufficient material to believe that the plane carrying Netaji crashed at Taihoku Airfield early in the afternoon of the 18th August 1945. There is no reason to disbelieve the large number of witnesses, both Japanese and non-Japanese. There is no evidence before us to show that the plane in question did not crash at Taihoku. Unfortunately, no formal enquiry into the air crash was carried out by the Japanese authorities at that time. General Isayama, Chief of the General Staff of the Formosan Army in 1945, was asked about this matter. He first said that since the aeroplane in question did not belong to the Formosan Army, the Headquarters of the Formosan Army had no responsibility to hold an enquiry into the matter. Then he said that it was the duty of the Commander, within whose area an air crash took place, to enquire into, and report it to the higher authorities. He said that in this case, a report was submitted to the Imperial General Headquarters by his Staff Officer, Lt. Col. Shibuya, through him. Lt. Col. Shibuya, who was also examined, denied knowledge of any such enquiry, and said that the responsibility of holding it lay entirely with the Air Division concerned. This matter was pursued further by the Committee and a report was obtained from the Japanese Foreign Office to confirm that no official enquiry was held into the air crash by the Japanese authorities (Annexure I). One would have expected a formal enquiry into an air crash as it involved two important personalities like Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and Lt. Gen. Shidei. Perhaps, there was no organisation following the surrender of Japan on the 15th of August. We referred the available evidence regarding the plane, its condition and the crash, to the Director General of Civil Aviation, Government of India, on our return to Delhi, after placing on record the evidence of Japanese witnesses. The Director General of Civil Aviation had these papers examined by an expert, and the Committee recorded the opinion of Mr. A. M. N. Sastri, an Aircraft Inspector, Accidents Investigation Branch, regarding the accident and its cause. Shri Sastri's opinion was:

"From the statement of witnesses, sketches and photographs



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appears that the aircraft crashed, and after the take-off, within the boundary of the aerodrome. The maximum height attained by the plane might have been anything up to 150 feet. The initial cause of the plane falling to the ground, according to the statement of witnesses, is the breaking away of the propeller and then the engine on the left-hand side. It is not possible to establish the exact cause as to how the propeller came off from the engine from the details available. In the absence of details of construction of the engine and the various control systems, and the maintenance records, and without examining the wreckage, it is not possible to trace the exact defect causing the crash. As observed by Major Kono, one of the witnesses, the engine seems to have been defective and over-speeding at the time of the take-off from Saigon. This appears to have something to do with the crash."

Regarding the effect of the crash and chances of survival, Mr. Sastri has said, "Taking into consideration the starting point of the fire to be from the star-board front as stated by Major Kono and the location of the petrol tank and also the inadequacy of emergency provision, it may be stated that

- (1) those who were in the front could be the worst sufferers;
- (2) those who were in the centre left could be seriously injured; and
- (3) those who were in the rear could have chances of survival."

He went on to elucidate: "In case of air accident, the survival of passengers or members of the crew is purely a matter of luck. I have come across accidents where in major crashes the occupants survived, whereas in similar accidents they died. It is very difficult to predict anything accurately as far as the survival of passengers in an aircraft accident is concerned."

18. From the evidence given by eye-witnesses and the opinion of the expert, it is established that there was an aircraft accident at Taihoku on the 18th August 1945 due to some kind of engine trouble, the cause of which cannot be established clearly in the absence of data. As for survivors, there is nothing surprising that seven out of the 13 or 14 persons on board the ill-fated plane survived. It is not a fact that Col. Habibur Rehman alone survived to tell the tale. So far as has been ascertained, the following persons survived:

- (1) Lt. Col. T. Sakai,
- (2) Lt. Col. S. Nonogaki,
- (3) Major T. Kono,
- (4) Major I. Takahashi,
- (5) Captain K. Arai,
- (6) Sergeant Okishta, and
- (7) Col. Habibur Rehman.

Of these survivors, the Committee could not examine in person



Lt. Col. T. Sakai (1) who was away from Japan. As stated previously, a written statement was obtained from him through the Japanese Foreign Office. Attempts were made to trace Sergeant Okishta (6), but he was not found.

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## DEATH OF NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

Thus, Netaji was carried along with other injured persons to Nanmon Military Hospital, Taihoku. This was a small hospital, and had four general wards with accommodation for 80 patients, and 15 more in the infectious ward. As a precaution against air raids, the main Hospital and its several branches were removed to outer areas. The Nanmon Branch was the only one left in Taihoku city, where patients received first-aid treatment before being sent to other hospitals. The Medical Officer in charge of this branch was Captain T. Yoshimi who had graduated in 1938 and was commissioned in 1940. There was another doctor, Dr. T. Tsuruta, who had qualified only in 1944. There was also a third doctor. The other staff consisted of half a dozen Japanese and Formosan nurses and 30 medical orderlies. The Committee examined both Dr. Yoshimi and Dr. Tsuruta. None of the Japanese nurses could be traced. A Formosan nurse, Tsan Pi Sha, who had made an important statement before an Indian journalist, Mr. Harin Shah of *Indian Free Press Journal*, in 1946, could not be examined as the Committee did not find it possible to visit Formosa. At 2 P.M. on the 18th August 1945, Dr. Yoshimi received a telephone message from the Taihoku Aerodrome to be ready to receive a number of persons injured in an air accident. Sometime later, a dozen injured persons including Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose were admitted into the hospital. There is some discrepancy between the witnesses, as to who travelled in which vehicles, and who arrived first. But these are minor points and may be overlooked. When Netaji was taken to the hospital, most of the witnesses have said that he was without any clothes on him, but there are others who say that he came partly covered. A Military Officer identified the big-built foreigner as the Indian leader Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. His Adjutant, Col. Habibur Rehman, was also admitted at the same time.

2. When he was brought in, Netaji's condition was the most serious, but such was his magnanimity that he told the doctors to attend to the others first, and to him last. In view, however, of his condition, the doctors attended to him first. Eye-witnesses, both medical and non-medical, have said that Netaji was burnt all over, and his skin had taken on a dark colour, but none of them mentioned any cut injury. Col. Habibur Rehman has said that Netaji had a cut on his head 4 inches long which was bleeding. This is a discrepancy.

Netaji was examined by Dr. Yoshimi who says, "I found that he was



severely burnt all over his body, and all of it had taken on a greyish colour like ash. Even his heart had burns. His face was swollen. In my opinion, his burns were of the severest type, i.e., of the third degree. There was no injury on his body from which blood came out. His eyes were also swollen. He could see, but had difficulty in opening them. He was in his senses when he was brought in. He was in high fever; his temperature was 39° centigrade. His pulse rate was 120 per minute. The condition of his heart was also weak." Dr. Yoshimi has stated that after examination of Netaji, his impression was that his condition was so serious that he was not likely to survive till the next morning. He says that Netaji's burns were caused by splashing of petrol. After examining Netaji and treating him, Dr. Yoshimi examined and treated the other injured persons. Netaji was not the only person who received severe burns. W/O Ayoagi, the Co-pilot, suffered similar burns over his shoulders. His forearms were also burnt and the legs below his knees were also burnt. All these were caused by splashing of petrol. Major Kono had third-degree burns on his hands. Col. Sakai had burns on his hands. Only Lt. Col. Nonogaki did not have any burn or injury. Dr. Yoshimi has stated that Col. Habibur Rehman had burns on one side of his face and on his opposite hand. He also had a cut on his right temple.

3. Dr. Yoshimi has given details of the treatment given to Netaji. Initially Netaji's burns were dressed by Dr. Tsuruta who applied a white ointment and bandaged him all over. Dr. Yoshimi gave for his heart, one after the other, four injections of Vita-camphor and two injections of Digitamine. He also gave him three intravenous injections of Ringer-solution, 500 c.c. each. The treatment was given initially in the dressing room, and then Netaji was removed to the attached ward No. 2 where further treatment was carried on. Different witnesses have given different versions of the room in which the initial treatment was given. Dr. Yoshimi has given a sketch plan of the Hospital showing the ward where Netaji lay. There is some discrepancy between the witnesses as to who were in the same ward with Netaji. According to the two doctors, only Netaji and Col. Habibur Rehman were there. Col. Rehman says that a third person, probably a pilot, was also there. Sketch plans of the Hospital and Netaji's ward were also submitted by Dr. Tsuruta and Col. Habibur Rehman. Major Takahashi and Major Kono have said that Netaji was in a separate room, while Lt. Col. Nonogaki has stated that all the injured persons including Netaji were taken to one room, while he himself was in another room. The Interpreter, J. Nakamura, has stated that in addition to Netaji and Col. Habibur Rehman, there were three other Japanese officers in the same ward. After the lapse of years, it would perhaps be unwise to lay too much



stress on such minor discrepancies, made by persons, many of whom were themselves seriously injured. It would be more reasonable to accept the statement of the two doctors that only Netaji and Col. Rehman were kept in one room. Dr. Yoshimi has stated that in the case of severe burns of third degree, the blood gets thicker, and there is high pressure on the heart. In order to relieve this pressure, blood is usually let out and new blood given in its place. Approximately 200 c.c. of Netaji's blood was let out and a blood transfusion to the extent of 400 c.c. was given to him. Dr. Yoshimi has said that this blood was obtained from a Japanese soldier in the Nanmon Military Hospital and was given between 4 and 5 P.M. that day. There is a little difference here between this and the evidence of Mr. Harin Shah, an Indian journalist, who had the chance to enquire into this matter locally, in Formosa, in 1946. According to Mr. Shah, the blood was donated by a Japanese medical student. A more serious discrepancy is the statement of Dr. Tsuruta, who attended on Netaji, that no blood transfusion was given. Col. Rehman who was also in the same ward room could not remember if any blood transfusion was given to Netaji. There is no way of reconciling these different statements and they must remain as they are. Then Sulfonamide injection was also given to Netaji to prevent infection. Netaji's initial reaction to this treatment was favourable. Col. Habibur Rehman's injuries were also treated with ointment and disinfectant and bandaged. Thereafter, Dr. Yoshimi left, to attend the Japanese injured officers, with instructions to Dr. Tsuruta to look after Netaji and give him Vita-camphor injection at 30 minutes' interval. Except the point regarding blood transfusion, Dr. Tsuruta's evidence corroborates that of Dr. Yoshimi's. As stated previously, none of the nurses could be examined. One Kazo Mitsui, a medical orderly, at that time at the Nanmon Military Hospital, came on his own, and gave evidence and said that he had helped the doctor attending on Netaji by bringing medicines, etc.

4. Netaji was conscious at the beginning, and occasionally asked for water, a little of which was given each time. An interpreter was called in, so that Netaji could speak to the Japanese personnel if he so desired. In addition to the doctors, some nurses were also attending on Netaji. According to Col. Habibur Rehman, Netaji was taken to the "operation theatre", and given a white transfusion which he thought was camphor. The Japanese doctors did not refer to the operation theatre. In any case, since there was no surgical operation, it was not necessary to take him there. Perhaps, Col. Habibur Rehman was thinking of the dressing room attached to the ward. According to Col. Habibur Rehman, Netaji asked for water once or twice, and asked once whether Hasan was there. According to the Interpreter, Nakamura, Netaji spoke three times. The first time he said that some of his men were following him, and

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they should be taken care of, when they came to Formosa. The second time he said that he felt that blood was rushing to his head. This is partly corroborated by Lt. Col. Nonogaki who claims to have stood by Netaji's bed and talked to him. During all this time, Netaji must have been in very great pain, but not a word of complaint or groan escaped his lips. His stoic calm impressed the Japanese witnesses greatly. J. Nakamura says: "During all this time, not a word of complaint, either of pain or suffering, came from his lips. The Japanese officers at the other end of the room were groaning with pain, and crying out that they may be killed rather than continue to endure their suffering. This composure of Netaji surprised all of us."

5. Dr. Yoshimi has stated that at about 7 or 7-30 P.M. he was informed by Dr. Tsuruta that Netaji's condition had deteriorated and his pulse was very weak. He hurried and gave Netaji injections of Vita-camphor and Digitamine. In spite of administering stimulants, his heart and pulse beat did not improve. Slowly his life ebbed away. Shortly after 8 P.M. he breathed his last. He made out a medical certificate of death in respect of the deceased, writing his name in Japanese (Kata Kana) as "Chandra Bose" and giving the cause of death as "burns of third degree". The following persons were present at his bedside at the time of Netaji's death: Dr. Yoshimi, Dr. Tsuruta, two nurses, Col. Habibur Rehman, Mr. Nakamura (Interpreter), and one Military Policeman. According to Kazo Mitsui, a medical orderly, he was also present. According to Dr. Tsuruta, the time was about 7 or 8 P.M. Col. Habibur Rehman gave the time as 9 P.M.—six hours after the crash. It may be stated here that in a brief statement made by Dr. Yoshimi in 1946, when he was in Stanley Jail in Hong Kong, he gave the time as 11 P.M., and according to the telegram sent by the Chief of Staff, Southern Army, to O.C., Hikari Kikan, on the 20th August 1945, which was recovered by British Military Intelligence, the death took place at midnight. This was repeated in the first publication of the news on the 23rd of August 1945 by the Japanese Domei Agency. The evidence of the fellow injured persons does not help to establish the correct hour. Lt. Col. Nonogaki and Major Kono had stated that they were removed to the second hospital the same night. Major Takahashi could only say that Netaji expired the same night. Only Captain Arai said that he heard from a nurse at about 10 P.M. that Netaji had expired. So, the time of death cannot be established with accuracy; it could be any time between 8 P.M. and midnight on the 18th August 1945.

6. One of the reasons why many people cast doubt on the fact that Netaji was dead, was the manner in which the news was made known. For reasons not very clear, the Japanese authorities maintained a great deal of secrecy about it. Presumably, it was partly due to reasons of security. Even in their official correspondence



between one Commander and another, Netaji was referred to by the Japanese as Mr. "T". In the Secret Telegram, dated the 20th August 1945, from the Chief of Southern Army to O.C., Hikari Kikan, it was definitely stated that secrecy is to be maintained. The Interpreter, J. Nakamura, says that the news about Netaji's death was kept a secret and known only to high-ranking Military Officers. General Isayama, Chief of the General Staff, Formosan Army, had tried to justify this hush-hush policy by saying that they did not want to make the news public, that an important person like Netaji, who had taken a prominent part against the British for the liberation of India, was fleeing to Tokyo. General Bhonsle says that the news about Netaji was promptly communicated to him at Bangkok in a series of telegrams. But Sardar Ishar Singh, who was the Adviser to the Provisional Government of Azad Hind and Chairman of the Thai Territorial Committee of the Indian Independence League, says that the news about Netaji's plane crash and death was communicated by Japanese Military authorities three or four days after Netaji had left Bangkok, that is to say, on the 20th or 21st of August 1945. Those of Netaji's party who were left behind at Saigon did not get any news about him during the time they were there, i.e., till the 20th of August, although it was the Headquarters of the Southern Army, and a part of the time General Isoda was there and in possession of the all important information. The news was broken to Mr. S. A. Ayer by Lt. Col. Tada, who was flying with him to Tokyo, on the afternoon of the 20th at Canton. Mr. Debnath Das and others who went on to Hanoi, learnt of the tragedy only from the radio broadcast from Tokyo. It was given out on the 23rd August. Then there was the curious incident narrated by Mr. Debnath Das that a couple of days later, a Japanese Staff Officer came and told him that the plane crash was just a story, and they were not to believe it, but to go on acting according to their plan. Col. Pritam Singh was told of this by Mr. Debnath Das. Next month Mr. Debnath Das went underground. There were some other persons in Bangkok whom Netaji had already instructed, just before he left Bangkok, to go underground and keep touch with him by wireless. Some small arms, ammunition and wireless transmitter were handed over to two men, Mr. A. C. Das and Mr. Sunil Roy. Mr. Das was examined by the Committee at Bangkok. He said that when he heard the news of the crash, he like others did not believe it. But although Mr. Sunil Roy had the wave-length, frequency, call signs, etc., to contact Netaji, he tried in vain to contact him. They gave up the attempt after 10 days, and believed that the plane had indeed crashed with Netaji. Mr. Debnath Das came to the surface in May 1946, in Bangkok, but could give no news about Netaji's continued existence to Mr. A. C. Das. So most of those who originally doubted the story of the plane



crash gradually came to believe it.

7. Not only were the Japanese initially secretive, and delayed in publishing the news, but no convincing proof of the death of Netaji was produced before the Indians in South-East Asia. Some pictures were taken two days later after the death, one of which shows Col. Habibur Rehman keeping vigil, and another shows a sheet covering some object. From these photographs (copies in Annexure II) the dead person cannot be identified. Dr. Yoshimi has said that it was against Japanese custom to photograph dead bodies. Col. Habibur Rehman has said that he did not allow Netaji's face to be photographed as it had swollen, and was disfigured. Neither were any of his personal belongings shown as having been recovered at that time. There has been a certain amount of controversy about the watch Col. Habibur Rehman brought with him, which was later handed over by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to the late Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, elder brother of Netaji. It was a rectangular watch. Col. Habibur Rehman has stated that it was handed over to him by Dr. Yoshimi as belonging to Netaji, but Dr. Yoshimi said that he did not remember anything about it. Most of the pictures of Netaji show him wearing a round wrist watch. His personal valet Kundan Singh also confirms that he habitually wore a round wrist watch. On the other hand, it is a fact that Netaji carried in his baggage a number of watches of different kinds, including rectangular ones, which were given to him as gifts on different occasions. Some rectangular watches in a damaged condition are in the collection of articles salvaged from Taihoku Airfield, now lying in the National Museum at Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi, which was inspected by the Committee. The point about the watch remains inconclusive. It may be stated here that these salvaged articles were shown to Netaji's valet Kundan Singh, who was with Netaji from his arrival in Singapore till his departure from Bangkok on 17th August 1945. Kundan Singh identified a number of articles as belonging to Netaji, such as a gold cigarette case studded with precious stones presented by Herr Hitler, a cigarette-lighter, a paper-knife used for manicuring, and an oval 'supari' box made of gold. The question of valuables carried by Netaji will be examined later. The point that is being made here is that owing to the secrecy, delay in publishing the news, and not bringing forward proofs of Netaji's death by the Japanese authorities, many people were led honestly to doubt that Netaji had died. It is probable that in normal times such delays and omissions would not have arisen, and that things were out of gear after the Japanese surrender on the 15th of August 1945.

8. Soon after the end of hostilities, the Government of India sent two parties of Intelligence officers (police) headed by Messrs. Finney and Davies to the Far East to enquire about the whereabouts



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of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, and if possible, to arrest him. Two Indian police officers who were in those parties, Mr. H. K. Roy and Mr. K. P. De, appeared before us and gave evidence. Mr. H. K. Roy worked in Mr. Davies' party and proceeded first to Saigon, and then to Taihoku in September 1945. He says that they interviewed the Japanese Military Officer in charge of Saigon Aerodrome, and obtained a list of the passengers of the plane. It was the only plane which left Saigon on the 17th August 1945. The last two names in that list were Chandra Bose and H. Rehman. At Taihoku, they interrogated some officers connected with the aerodrome. They said that the plane had crashed on the 18th August, and caught fire, and as a result, Netaji who had been badly burnt, was taken to the hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries the same night. They added that Col. Habibur Rehman had also received injuries, and that a number of Japanese officers had been killed or injured. Mr. Davies also examined the medical officer in charge of the Hospital, who confirmed the death of Netaji. The conclusion of the police officers was that Netaji had died as a result of air crash, and they reported to the Government of India accordingly. Mr. H. K. Roy who helped Mr. Finney to write the report states that the report was definite that Netaji was dead, and thereafter the Government of India withdrew the warrant of arrest against Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The Bangkok party seized a telegraphic message conveying the information that the plane carrying Netaji had crashed at Taipeh, on the 18th August, and that Netaji had expired on the same day. The telegram in question, Signal 66, dated 20th August, from the Chief of Staff, Southern Army, to O.C., Hikari Kikan, is reproduced below:

"To OC KIKAN

FROM Chief of Staff, Southern Army, Staff II.

Signal 66, 20th August.

"TOP SECRET"

"T, while on his way to the capital, as a result of an accident to his aircraft at TAIHOKU at 1400 hours on the 18th was seriously injured and died at midnight on the same date. His body has been flown to TOKYO by the Formosan Army."

(Mr. "T" as already stated, was code name for Netaji.) On being questioned, the discrepancy about the body was sought to be clarified by saying that the statement regarding Netaji's death, and not his body, was flown to Tokyo. Col. Tada was specially brought down from Tokyo to Saigon for questioning on this point. A parallel enquiry was conducted about the same time at the instance of the Director of Military Intelligence, India, or Admiral Lord

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Mountbatten's Headquarters at Kandy, through Col. F. G. Figgess, at that time attached to General MacArthur's Headquarters at Tokyo, about Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. This enquiry was handled by an American Intelligence Officer working under G.H.Q., SCAP (Supreme Commander, Allied Powers). The conclusion reached from these reports was that Netaji had died of burns at Taipeh, as a result of the air crash.

9. In August 1946, i.e., the year after the events, Mr. Harin Shah, an Indian journalist, visited Formosa at the invitation of the Chiang Kai-shek Government. There he took up enquiry on his own about Netaji. Mr. Shah came across a number of Formosans who had something to say as to what happened to Netaji at Taihoku. He met some medical students, who had heard that Netaji had been severely injured as a result of the air crash, and that a Japanese medical student donated blood for transfusion. He also examined at length a Formosan nurse, Sister Tsan Pi Sha, who said that she was in attendance on Netaji at the Nanhon Military Hospital. She gave correct descriptions of Netaji and Col. Habibur Rehman. In the end, she said that Netaji had died at the hospital at 11 at night. It has already been stated that the Committee had not been able to visit Formosa, much as they would have liked to, on account of the fact that there was no diplomatic connection between our Government and the authorities in Formosa. Mr. Harin Shah's evidence is, therefore, all the more valuable, as it was taken on the spot, soon after the time of the occurrence. He was satisfied on the strength of his enquiries that Netaji had died at Taihoku as a result of the air accident.

10. It will thus be seen that the evidence given by witnesses before us as to Netaji's death is corroborated by the findings of British and American Intelligence organisations who undertook independent enquiries very soon after the occurrence, and the conclusions of an unofficial enquiry conducted a year later by an Indian journalist. As for the witnesses who have deposed before us, neither from their antecedents, nor from the manner in which they made their statements, has the Committee any reason to disbelieve their stories. These witnesses are of different nationalities. Some were Japanese, Col. Habibur Rehman, an Indian (now a Pakistani), and Col. Figgess, an Englishman. They were unconnected with each other and came from different walks of life. There is absolutely no reason why they should come and depose to something which they know to be untrue. The Japanese witnesses came from all over Japan—some of them at much personal loss and inconvenience. For instance, Dr. Yoshimi, who owns a medical clinic at Miyasakiken in Kyushii Island, had to close down his clinic for several days and come to Tokyo, a distance about 1,200 kilometres from his place. The Japanese Foreign Office had themselves conducted an enquiry



into the matter sometime ago, and had suggested the names of some witnesses, who might give us information. But Japan is not a totalitarian country and the mere fact that some names were suggested by the Japanese Foreign Office need not necessarily mean that they were compelled to tell any particular story. It may be added that the Committee examined a much larger number of witnesses than originally suggested by the Japanese Foreign Office. These witnesses were either called for by the Committee, or they themselves volunteered, in response to a newspaper notice, issued by the Committee. Most of the Japanese witnesses are not now connected with the Government of Japan, and are in no way obliged to give evidence according to any particular brief. In fact, as will be seen, different witnesses have given different stories, which would disprove any suggestion of "promoting". So, notwithstanding discrepancies and variations, which are only too likely after the lapse of so many years, the statements of witnesses must be taken as worthy of credit. These statements are corroborated by enquiries through military and non-official channels soon after the events. They all point to the fact that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose died at Taihoku Military Hospital on the night of the 18th August 1945. We accept this conclusion. In a way, the sudden and dramatic death fits in with the dynamic character of that national leader and patriot, Subhas Chandra Bose. In General Shidei's service record, the cause of his death is shown as death by war. The same was true of Netaji, only in his case it was a different war, the war for the independence of India. His war was continuing. He was only changing over from one battle-field to another—from South-East Asia to Manchuria.

11. Against this mass of evidence that Netaji had died as a result of the plane crash, there are some who hold that he is alive. Those who believe this are again divided into two schools. The first, mainly consisting of certain members of the Bose family, believe that although Netaji is alive, nobody is in touch with him, and for reasons of his own, he is in hiding, and will reappear in India at a time chosen by him. The best spokesman of this school was Mr. Aurobindo Bose. According to him, Netaji was a master planner, as he had planned his last escape so well, that nobody could find his clues. The Japanese Government helped him to escape, and they have, therefore, put out an elaborate deception story which is supported by Japanese witnesses. As for Col. Habibur Rehman, he is bound by an oath of secrecy and his injuries are faked. These are largely presumptions. As has been stated before, there is a great deal of evidence that the plane had crashed and Netaji had died. There is no reason to disbelieve the numerous witnesses belonging to Japanese and other nations. From medical evidence it appears clear that the injuries of Col. Rehman were genuine. If he was under any oath of secrecy, surely the others, particularly the

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Japanese witnesses, were not. Yet they have corroborated each other. So the line of reasoning of this school cannot be accepted.

12. The other school claims that Netaji is not only alive, but people have seen him, and that he has appeared here and there, mainly in China, and also on the border of India and China. Mr. Muthuramalinga Thevar, M.L.A. (Madras), has issued press statements, from time to time, that he has been in contact with Netaji. He was the first witness to be called by the Committee. Although implored by the Committee, he would not part with the secret. He took the plea that he must first be satisfied that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was not on the list of War Criminals. When, on enquiry from the Government of India, he was told that the Government did not have any such list, he was still not satisfied. More than once Mr. Thevar stated that he belonged to a political party (Forward Bloc), and so he must view all things from a political angle. He was questioned about his press statements to which he replied significantly, "This is an Official Committee; that was a public affair." A person who is not prepared to stand by the statements he makes to the public and press, before an official Committee, cannot expect to be taken seriously. Mr. S. M. Goswami has produced a sensational pamphlet "Netaji Mystery Revealed". He gave evidence before the Committee in Calcutta, and claims that Netaji is alive. Apparently, his theory started in 1949, when he went to Germany, and met a certain gentleman, Herr Heins Von Have, who told him that Netaji was alive. Herr Have claimed to have been acquainted with Netaji. Mr. Goswami was questioned regarding Von Have. In reply, he said that when the plane crash took place, Von Have was in Tokyo. He was not sure whether he went to Formosa to enquire into the plane crash, or heard it from some German friends. These German friends, about whom no particulars are supplied, told Von Have that there had been no crash. Mr. Goswami did not go to Formosa. Such information can only be described as hearsay. Mr. Goswami has put forward several suggestions as to where Netaji was, or is, in Soviet Russia, China and Mongolia. Mr. Goswami is prepared to hold that by stages Netaji, originally a Russian prisoner, became a Chinese Communist General, and subsequently a Mongolian Trade Union Delegate. But his main reliance is on pictures. On opposite page 8 of his pamphlet "Netaji Mystery Revealed" is a picture of Chinese Military Officers. The person sixth from the left is supposed to resemble Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Identification is very difficult to establish from such pictures, particularly when the persons appear in foreign uniforms. But the picture on which Mr. Goswami pinned his faith was that of the visit of the Mongolian Trade Delegation to Peking in 1954, which came to his hand in 1955, in a book published by



Workers' Press, Peking. He has enlarged the picture appearing on page 4 of that booklet, and submitted it to the Committee. He holds the third figure from the left has a striking resemblance to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The difficulty about identifying a person from a random picture has been mentioned. It might be stated here, without any suggestion of flippancy, that cinema films of historical characters, such as Ramakrishna or Swami Vivekananda, are produced now and again. Those who wish to be cast for such roles are called for interview by the producer, and quite a number appear bearing a close resemblance. But the actor who appears on the screen as Swami Vivekananda is really an entirely different person from the original. In any case, that picture of the Mongolian Delegation was sent to the Indian Embassy, Peking, for identification. The Foreign Office of the People's Republic of China has stated after enquiry that the photo was of a Chinese gentleman, Mr. Lee Ke Hung, Medical Superintendent of the Peking University Medical College. A copy of the telegram conveying the information will be found in Annexure I. In his enthusiasm, Mr. Goswami appeared before the Committee for the second time. He was questioned further about the Mongolian Delegate. The questions and answers are given below:

"Question: How did you come to know about the activities of this particular Mongolian Delegate?

Reply: From the statement of Lt. N. B. Das made through the press.

Question: How did Lt. Das come to know of the whereabouts of the Mongolian Delegate?

Reply: It is up to him to answer."

In this connection it may be stated that a certain person claiming to be Lt. N. B. Das appeared, and deposed before the Committee. Mr. Debnath Das, who was an Adviser to the Provisional Government of Azad Hind, wrote a letter about this person to the Chairman of the Committee which reads as follows: "It appeared in the press that one Lt. N. B. Das gave evidence to the Commission. Das was a Havildar attached to Col. P. N. Dutta and was at Zawabudy, Central Burma, when the Allied troops took Burma. He was not a Security Officer. He was not stationed at Bangkok as was reported."

The value of information gleaned from such a source cannot be high, and the theories built by Mr. Goswami on such hearsay cannot carry much weight.

13. One responsible person who suggested that Netaji might be alive, is Mr. A. K. Gupta, Joint Editor of the *Hindusthan Standard*. Mr. Gupta said that in 1951 he undertook a tour in the hill areas of Assam. There he met Mr. Phizo, the Naga leader. Mr. Phizo



told him that even before the crash of Netaji's plane, he knew that such a false story would be given out. This story was published in the *Ananda Bazar Patrika* (Bengali) of Calcutta on 18 May 1951. While travelling in the Mishmi hills, some Mishmi headmen told Mr. Gupta that some of them had been taken by some Chinese officers, who were on their border, to see an Indian among them. They were shown a person who looked like Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Mr. Gupta added that the Mishmis in question had not seen Netaji before, and he could not vouch for the truth of their story. Vague suggestions have appeared from time to time that Netaji was with the Chinese Army, or with the fighting Nagas, or that one day he would come to India at the head of an Army. To such suggestions, one can only quote from the historic speech Netaji delivered when he assumed charge of the Indian Independence Movement in Singapore on the 4th July, 1942: "Even my enemies will not have the audacity to say that I can injure the interest of my country." (Page 79 in Major General A. Chatterjee's book *India's Struggle for Freedom*.)

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#### CHAPTER IV

### CREMATION OF NETAJI'S BODY

IMMEDIATELY after Netaji passed away, the Japanese present stood up and paid respects to his body by saluting. Col. Habibur Rehman was one of Netaji's most trusted officers, and had been especially chosen by Netaji to accompany him on this journey. Habibur Rehman was deeply affected by Netaji's death. The Interpreter, Nakamura, who was present at the death-bed, has graphically described how Col. Rehman prayed for the dead. At first he came and knelt by Netaji's bed, and prayed for five or six minutes. Then he opened the window and, looking at the sky, prayed for a longer time, and then slowly came to his bed and lay down. All present in the room were affected. Dr. Yoshimi says that tears were rolling down Col. Rehman's eyes. The nurses were crying loudly. Everybody present in the room was crying. In fact, describing this poignant scene before the Committee, Dr. Yoshimi himself broke down and sobbed audibly. Thereafter, Dr. Yoshimi informed the Military Headquarters of the sad event. Major Nagatomo was sent down from the Headquarters. He came and saw Netaji's body lying on the hospital bed swathed in bandages. The body was removed to one corner of the room, and a screen was put round it, and according to Japanese custom, flowers and candles were placed by its side. The changed position is shown in the sketches of the hospital furnished by Dr. Yoshimi and Col. Habibur Rehman. Major Nagatomo posted soldiers to guard the body.

2. Next day, i.e., on the 19th August, the Formosan Army Headquarters received a telegram from the Imperial General Headquarters that the body should be flown to Tokyo by plane. Accordingly, Major Nagatomo instructed Dr. Yoshimi to inject Formalene into the body to preserve it. On the same day, the body was put in a coffin which, according to Col. Habibur Rehman, was made of camphor-wood. Major Nagatomo says that he had lifted the lid of the coffin and seen Netaji's face. He says, "I saw Mr. Bose's face. It was a big round face." Col. Habibur Rehman also saw the body being put in the coffin. Meanwhile, Col. Habibur Rehman had been pressing the local Japanese Military authorities to arrange for the transport of the body, preferably to Singapore, or alternatively to Tokyo. On that day, i.e., on the 19th, some senior Military officers came to the Hospital, and expressed their regrets for the unfortunate accident and Netaji's demise. But the body was not transported by plane either to Singapore, or to Tokyo. According to Major Nagatomo, the first telegram from the Imperial General Head-



quarters was followed by a second telegram, asking them not to send the body to Tokyo, but to cremate it at Taihoku. No reason was given for this change of orders. Col. Habibur Rehman was told, on the 20th, that the body could not be transported by plane, because the coffin was too big to be carried in the small plane which the Japanese had. Formosa was hot in August, and it was the third day after the death. Finding no alternative, he had to agree to the cremation of the body at Taihoku. There is some discrepancy about the date of cremation. In his statement before us, Col. Habibur Rehman had given the date of cremation as 20th of August, but in a statement signed by him dated 24th August 1945 and handed to Mr. Murti, the date was given as 22nd August. Mr. J. Nakamura definitely gives the date as 20th August. Dr. Yoshimi says that so far as he could remember, it was the 20th, but he was not very sure. Major Nagatomo has not mentioned any definite date, but says that the cremation was done "on the same day, on receipt of the second telegram from the Imperial General Headquarters"—which appears to have been received on the 19th of August. It is unlikely that with so much argument, and change of orders, the body was cremated on the 19th, i.e., the date following the death. The cremation is more likely to have taken place sometime later.

3. The cremation was a simple and quiet ceremony. Although Col. Habibur Rehman says that the Hospital staff and a large number of others accompanied the cortege, this is not confirmed by Dr. Yoshimi, the doctor in charge of the Military Hospital. Dr. Yoshimi simply says, "The body was taken away from the Hospital by the Captain of the guard that was posted there on the 18th..... The coffin was placed in the truck and carried away." Major Nagatomo, who had been detailed by the Military Headquarters to make all necessary arrangements for the cremation and funeral of Netaji's body, says that the coffin was placed on a truck, with twelve soldiers, and ahead of it he went along in a car with the Indian Adjutant (Col. Habibur Rehman) and the Interpreter (Mr. Nakamura). The Interpreter, Mr. Nakamura, has given a detailed description as to what had happened at the crematorium. The crematorium was visited by Mr. Harin Shah. It was the Taihoku City Government Crematorium, and was reached after crossing the main Sun Yat-Sen Avenue. Mr. Harin Shah took some photographs of the crematorium both from inside and outside. Apart from the Japanese soldiers, persons definitely present at the cremation were:

Col. Habibur Rehman,  
Major Nagatomo,  
Mr. J. Nakamura,  
a Buddhist priest, and  
the Crematorium Attendant, Mr. Chu Tsang.

The Committee has examined the first three. The Buddhist priest



and the Formosan attendant could not be examined, as we could not go to Formosa. Mr. Nakamura has given a detailed account of the crematorium, and what took place there. He says: "On arrival at the crematorium, the soldiers took up the coffin, and carried it to the furnace. The crematorium was a large-sized hall with a furnace in the middle. The hall, as far as I remember, was approximately 16 ft. by 16 ft. From the entrance to the hall, the soldiers carried the coffin on their shoulders, and placed it in the sliding tray in the furnace, and after closing the door of the furnace they came out, and told us that they had placed the coffin in position in the furnace. The soldiers went out, and we, who were waiting outside, went inside the hall. Col. Rehman was in the front. I was next to him. The other gentlemen, totalling about five, followed us. We went and stood in front of the furnace. All of us stayed there and saluted. After paying our respects, we went to the back side of the furnace where we found the priest standing with burning incense sticks (*aggarbattis*) in his hand. He wanted to hand over a stick to Col. Rehman but as he could not hold it, I took the stick and placed it in Col. Rehman's hands. Col. Rehman held it between the edge of his palms, since he could not hold it in his fingers, and placed it in the hole which was located at the rear of the furnace. I took the next incense stick and put it down in the same hole and everybody followed likewise. As we came out of the entrance of the crematorium, the caretaker told us to come there the following day, at about noon-time." The party came away after locking the door of the furnace. Both Col. Habibur Rehman and Major Nagatomo claim to have kept the key.

4. Next day, they again went to the crematorium to collect the ashes. Regarding collection of ashes, Major Nagatomo says:

"Next morning at about 8 A.M. I went to the hospital to take the Indian Adjutant with me. I went to the hospital in a car, and as far as I remember, the Interpreter was also with us on the next day. On arrival at the crematorium, I opened the lock of the furnace with the key that was with me, and pulled out the sliding plate. From the Headquarters I had taken with me a small wooden box about 8" cube. When we pulled out the plate on which the coffin had been put, we found that the whole skeleton had still retained its shape, but it was completely burnt. According to the Buddhist custom, I first picked a bone from the throat with two chop-sticks and placed it in the box. Then I picked a bone from every portion of his body and placed it in the box. The Indian Adjutant did the same after me. I do not remember about the Interpreter, whether he picked up the bones or not. In this way, the whole of the box was filled up. The lid of the box containing the bones was nailed but I am not quite sure whether it was nailed, here, or in the temple.



After closing the box, it was wrapped up in a white cloth. After wrapping the box in a white cloth, it was put round the neck of the Indian Adjutant, and we went by car to the Nishi (West) Honganji temple. That day a special ceremony was held at the temple."

Col. Habibur Rehman corroborates Major Nagatomo's version, but he does not give so much detail. Mr. Harin Shah had the advantage, of not only visiting the crematorium in 1946, but he also had questioned the caretaker, Mr. Chu Tsang. He said that the coffin of Netaji was very big. It was brought to the crematorium at about 3 p.m. and it took 8 hours to burn. The Japanese Officers had paid the usual fee of 18 yens. The coffin was so big, that it could not be put in the chamber, and so the body had to be placed in a smaller coffin. According to Mr. Chu Tsang, it was he who had collected the ashes next morning, and put it into the usual wooden funeral urn. He told Mr. Harin Shah that one Indian, with his forearm bandaged, came in a car with some Japanese and took away the urn. He described the Indian as a tall person dressed in white with his forearm bandaged.

5. Here again, about the cremation, the evidence has come from two Japanese, one Indian (Pakistani), and one Formosan witness. Their stories closely corroborate each other. There is no reason why these witnesses of different origin should tell the same story, unless they themselves took part in the events they described. There has been no suggestion of disposal of Netaji's body in any other way but by cremation at the Taihoku Crematorium. The slight confusion caused by Southern Army Headquarters telegram, dated the 20th August, that the body had been flown to Tokyo, could be explained in two ways. First, their own explanation that the report regarding Netaji's body was flown to Tokyo, presumably with Col. Tada. Secondly, they might have been referring at that time to the first instruction, received from Imperial General Headquarters to fly the body to Tokyo, which was subsequently countermanded. It can be taken as well established that the body of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was burnt at Taihoku Crematorium, and his ashes were thereafter deposited at the Nishi Honganji temple in the same city. Thus dust returned to dust, and so little was left of so big a man.

6. An ordinary person reading the story from the beginning, from the flight from Saigon, to the deposit of the ashes in Nishi Honganji temple, cannot help feeling that things were not arranged in the best possible way. Netaji's requirement for air transport was modest. He only asked for passage for himself and six of his Advisers and Officers. It is not clear why this modest request could not be met. It is true that at that time, air passages were not easy to come by. Major Kono, for instance, who was on transfer to Tokyo, had to wait at Saigon for two weeks for his



passage. But then we have it from the evidence of Captain Nakamura *alias* Yamamoto that the flight of Japanese aircraft was restricted only after the 25th of August, i.e., 8 days after Netaji's departure from Saigon. Perhaps, it was not so difficult to arrange for 7 seats in an air transport. General Isoda, the Chief of the Japanese Liaison Mission, expected this to be provided, and was disappointed when he was informed to the contrary. Then, the plane itself was not probably in a particularly good state, as may be deduced from the fact that an engine had to be changed at Saigon. General Isayama, Chief of the General Staff, Formosan Army, has said that the engine of the plane was worn out. When the crash took place, it was dealt with in a somewhat casual manner. No officer of any standing came to the spot, although it is clear from the evidence of Staff Officer Major Nagatomo that information about the crash was received from the aerodrome immediately after it had occurred. The Chief of the General Staff of the Formosan Army, General Isayama, was candid enough to say that he learnt of the accident when he went to his office the next morning! And although Lt. Col. Nonogaki has stated that, on informing the Headquarters, some Staff Officers came while Netaji was alive, the Staff Officers themselves, namely, Col. Miyata and Major Nagatomo, say that they arrived after Netaji had died. Major Nagatomo says that immediately after receiving the information, General Ando, Commander of the Formosan Army, went to the hospital to see Netaji. He also says that General Ando attended the subsequent funeral ceremony at Nishi Honganji temple. General Isayama, Chief of the General Staff, who should know what the Army Commander was doing, gives a completely different story. He says that neither he nor General Ando went either to the hospital to pay respects to Netaji's body, or attended any funeral ceremony. He goes on to say that the Army Commander had shut himself up in his house from the day of surrender of Japan, and did not come out. In justification, he has said that they kept away so as not to give prominence to the fact that an important person like Netaji was fleeing to Tokyo. That explanation does not appear very convincing when he himself said that a week later he went and received Dr. Ba Maw, the Prime Minister of Burma, and General Tanaka, Chief of the General Staff, Burma Army, who were on their way to Tokyo. Apparently, no particular interest was taken by the local Army Command as to what happened to Netaji's body. A comparatively junior officer, a Major (Nagatomo), was detailed; and thereafter no further interest was apparently taken. General Isayama says, "I left the matter of disposal of Mr. Bose's ashes to my Staff Officer, and since I did not receive any report from him, I presume everything must have worked out smoothly." One would have at least expected a formal inquiry into the air crash, which is more or less



a routine matter. More so, as the plane carried distinguished persons like Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and Lt. General Shidei. But no such enquiry was held. On being questioned, General Isayama first denied that the Formosan Army had any responsibility to enquire into an accident of aircraft that did not belong to them—the plane in question belonged to the Third Air Army at Singapore. Later on he admitted that the local Army Command was expected to hold an enquiry, and went on to say that a report about this particular plane crash was submitted through him, by Lt. Col. Shibuya to the Imperial General Headquarters. As mentioned in a previous chapter dealing with the air crash, Lt. Col. Shibuya denied knowledge of any such report. Netaji was the Head of a State allied to Japan in war, but actually the cremation of his body was a very quiet affair, attended only by the same Major Nagatomo and a dozen soldiers. Truly, it may be said, "not a drum was heard, not a funeral note". One would have expected him to be buried with the usual military honours—gun carriage draped in flag, soldiers lining with reversed arms, and so on. It is true that there was a certain amount of disorganisation following the Japanese surrender on 15th of August 1945, but even taking this into account, there remains a residual impression that all that could have been done was not done.

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CHAPTER V

NETAJI'S ASHES

THE last part of this sad story is about Netaji's ashes. The day the ashes were taken out of the crematorium, the urn in which they were kept was taken and left at the Nishi Honganji temple in Taihoku city. Col. Habibur Rehman, Major Nagatomo and Mr. J. Nakamura, Interpreter, went to the temple. Mr. Nakamura has said that the urn was handed over to the Head Priest, with instructions that it should be well looked after, and fresh flowers placed before it every day. The urn was to be kept for the time being in the temple, till it was taken away to its final resting place. This temporary deposit seems to have been customary, for Mr. Nakamura says that in the same temple he saw another urn containing the ashes of General Shidei. There were two Buddhist temples near Nanmon Military Hospital, Taihoku: one was the Nishi (West) Honganji temple which was the biggest temple in Formosa, and had twelve priests, and the other was the Higashi (East) Honganji temple which had eight priests. The Nishi Honganji temple was nearer to the Nanmon Military Hospital, and the other temple was 600 metres away from it. These details have been given by the priest of Higashi Honganji temple, Rev. H. Hidemaru, whom the Committee examined as a witness. No priest from the Nishi Honganji temple could be traced. According to Rev. Hidemaru, the ashes were kept in a white box in the Nishi Honganji temple. He says that the urn containing the ashes was kept there by the Japanese Army who looked after it carefully and later brought it to Tokyo. He says that a funeral ceremony was held at Nishi Honganji temple towards the end of August 1945. Major Nagatomo says that he attended a funeral ceremony at the Nishi Honganji temple, either on the day the ashes were deposited, or on the next day. Lt. Col. Shibuya, the Staff Officer, also mentions the funeral ceremony at this temple. It appears that there was a ceremony also in the Higashi Honganji temple. Rev. Hidemaru says that on the 22nd or 23rd (i.e., soon after the ashes were brought to Nishi Honganji temple) his own Head Priest told him that a ceremony would be held for an important Indian personality on the 26th or 27th of August. He goes on to say that this ceremony did take place.

2. On the 5th September, a plane was flying to Tokyo. A passage was secured for Col. Habibur Rehman who had been asking for it from the Headquarters of the Formosan Army. Lt. Col. Shibuya, the Staff Officer of the same Headquarters, also decided to send by the same plane the urn containing Netaji's ashes, and

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the box containing valuables, and asked Lt. Col. T. Sakai to take charge of them. Sub. Lt. T. Hayashida was also asked to proceed to the Taihoku Aerodrome to carry the two boxes to Tokyo. According to the written statement of Lt. Col. T. Sakai, at that time his hands and face were still bandaged, and he could not lift any luggage. One Major Nakamiya, who was acquainted with Col. Habibur Rehman, also went on the same plane. Lt. Hayashida says that he arrived at the aerodrome at 11 A.M. on the 5th of September, and found that Lt. Col. Sakai, Major Nakamiya and Col. Habibur Rehman were there. There were also two boxes—one containing Netaji's ashes, and the other gold and jewellery. The first box was 1 foot cubical in shape, and the second box was 3 ft. x 2½ ft. x 2 ft. Both were of wood. The first was covered with white cloth, and the second had a leather covering. Both were nailed. He slung the box containing the ashes from his neck in the Japanese style. According to Lt. Col. Sakai, the aerodrome was Minami Aerodrome near Taihoku. The plane accident had taken place at the bigger Matsuyama Aerodrome. Major Nagatomo had arranged for the box containing the ashes to be taken from the temple, and delivered at the aerodrome. The aeroplane in which the party was travelling was, according to Col. Habibur Rehman, a Red Cross plane. Lt. Col. Sakai says that it was a 97 heavy bomber marked with a green cross. It flew to Gannosu Airfield near Fukuoka in Kyushu, the southern-most island of Japan. There is some discrepancy as to what happened then. According to Lt. Col. Sakai and Lt. Hayashida they all left by train next afternoon at 3 P.M., after having collected a guard of one Sergeant and two soldiers from the local Military Headquarters. According to Lt. Col. Sakai, they had consultations at Fukuoka and decided that, in the interest of safety, the party should be divided into two. While Col. Habibur Rehman and Major Nakamiya flew on to Tokyo, he (Lt. Col. Sakai) and Lt. Hayashida, with the ashes and the box of valuables, proceeded by train, attended by a guard of three soldiers from the local Army Headquarters. There is also discrepancy as regards the time of departure from Fukuoka and arrival at Tokyo. Col. Habibur Rehman says that the party left by night by goods train, and next morning (6th September) they reached Tokyo. Lt. Col. Sakai says that he and Lt. Hayashida left Fukuoka on the morning of 6th September, and reached Tokyo the same evening. According to the current time-table of the Japanese National Railways, even fast Express trains take 20 to 22 hours to reach Tokyo from Fukuoka (Hakata). It is unlikely that in 1945, after the war, the service was so much faster. So the time of travel, approximately 12 hours, given by Col. Habibur Rehman or Lt. Col. Sakai, is incorrect. The timing mentioned by Lt. Hayashida is more reasonable. He says that the

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party left Fukuoka at 3 P.M. on the 6th September and arrived at 6 P.M. on the 7th September. This date tallies with what has been mentioned by two officers of the Imperial General Staff, Major Kinoshita and Lt. Takakura, who received the ashes. However, the discrepancy as regards the time is not of great importance.

3. All the three witnesses, Col. Habibur Rehman, Lt. Col. Sakai and Lt. Hayashida, say that immediately on arrival at Tokyo the two boxes containing the ashes and valuables were taken to the Imperial General Headquarters. As it was after office hours, they made over charge to the Duty Officer, Major Kinoshita. The Duty Officer, Major Kinoshita, was examined by the Committee. He said that on the 7th of September at 11 P.M. an officer of the rank of Lt. Col. handed over to him for safe custody two wooden boxes which he said he had brought from Taiwan (Formosa). One box was 8" in size and the other 10" in size. One was light and the other heavy. The boxes were nailed and wrapped in cloth but were not sealed. The Officer who brought them said that the smaller box contained the ashes of Netaji / Subhas Chandra Bose, while the bigger one contained gold. As the boxes were received late at night, Major Kinoshita kept them in his room in his personal custody, and in the morning handed them over to the next Duty Officer, Lt. Col. Takakura. Lt. Col. Sakai went round to the Imperial General Headquarters next morning, and met, Lt. Col. Takakura, Chief of the Military Affairs Section, whom he knew, and confirmed that he had received the ashes and the box containing valuables. Neither the Duty Officers gave or took any receipt for the two boxes, nor made any written entries about them. Having taken charge of the ashes, Lt. Col. Takakura called the other officers of the Headquarters and paid respects to Netaji's ashes. He then contacted Mr. Ramamurti, President of the Indian Independence League, Tokyo, over the telephone, and asked him to come to the Headquarters and take charge of the ashes. A car was also arranged for Mr. Murti. Mr. Murti came in about half an hour's time, accompanied by Mr. Ayer who had by then arrived in Tokyo. At the main entrance of the Imperial General Headquarters, on the morning of the 8th September, the ashes were handed over to Messrs. Murti and Ayer, by Lt. Col. Takakura in a simple and solemn ceremony which is described by Mr. Murti in the following words:

"There Major Takakura (later Lt. Col.) was present, and there were two or three other officers. I do not recollect whether General Arisui was there. General Arisui was in the Imperial General Headquarters. Major Takakura told us that General Arisui had asked him to convey his personal condolences to us and to deliver the ashes to us. The urn was wrapped in white cloth, and was taken



out from a safety locker. It had straps of long-cloth with which to sling around the neck of the bearer. It was a cubical box of about 1 foot dimension. Several other Military personnel who were present solemnly bowed to the urn. It was received by Mr. Ayer. He was visibly moved by an overwhelming emotion. An Army Sedan car was arranged for our conveyance. Mr. Ayer and myself took the urn direct to my house."

4. At that time, Mr. Murti's house was being used for all purposes as the Headquarters of the Indian Independence League. The urn was placed on a pedestal and flowers and incense were put on it. On the urn, which was so far without any marking, the words "NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE" were written in English letters by Mr. Ayer. Indian cadets, generally known as Tokyo Boys, came and kept vigil over the ashes. The same night Col. Habibur Rehman turned up first at Mr. Murti's house, and later went to Mrs. Sahay's house, and met Mr. Ayer who was staying there. Since hearing the story of the crash, Mr. Ayer had held up his judgment awaiting the arrival of Col. Habibur Rehman. Mr. Murti in his statement says: "Mr. Ayer lost no time in confronting him with a barrage of questions to all of which Col. Rehman very calmly, seriously and solemnly gave adequate replies. This conversation definitely cleared all doubts which Mr. Ayer had, and now Mr. Ayer was resolved that the crash was an indisputable reality, and Netaji was a victim of it. Col. Rehman himself was surprised that Mr. Ayer should doubt his story. He showed his own hands and face as visible proof of what had happened. With a serious and solemn face, and eyes burning with sincerity, Col. Rehman allayed all doubts of anyone who came in contact with him, and we all accepted this as truth without a shadow of doubt in our minds." Next day he repeated the story to a bigger audience. Fearing that he might be arrested by the Allies, Col. Habibur Rehman also handed over to Mr. Murti, a copy of a brief written statement which was dated 24th August 1945 about what had happened to Netaji. (As previously stated, this statement was handed over to the Committee by Mr. J. Murti.) (Annexure I.)

5. To revert to the ashes, as the American Occupation of Japan had begun, Mr. Murti and his friends felt that an elaborate funeral ceremony would attract attention, and might be treated as a hostile demonstration by the Occupation Forces. They, therefore, decided to hold such a ceremony on a modest scale. Large ceremonies are usually held at large temples like Nishi Honganji temple, Tokyo. For the modest ceremony they looked for a smaller temple, and fixed upon the Renkoji temple in the same quarter of Tokyo, Suginamiku, in which Mr. Murti lived. The priest, Rev. Mochizuki,



also agreed to the proposal. At the request of Mrs. Sahay, the ashes were kept in her house for a day, and homage was paid to them also. Then the funeral ceremony was held at the Renkoji temple. There is some difference as to the date. Mr. Ramamurti says that it was held on the 12th or 13th of September. Mr. Ayer gives the date as 14th September. According to Col. Habibur Rehman (who, however, was not present) it was five or six days after his arrival in Tokyo. According to the priest, Rev. Mochizuki, the date was the 18th of September. On the day of the funeral ceremony, the ashes were carried in a procession from Mrs. Sahay's house to the Renkoji temple. Mr. J. Murti has described the occasion thus:

"All the Tokyo I.N.A. cadets, my brother and I, Mrs. Sahay and her family and the I.N.A. broadcasting unit were present. Mr. Ayer was also with the procession. Col. Rehman could not accompany the procession as he was wanted by the American Police for interrogation. Besides the Tokyo cadets numbering about 40, there were a small number of Japanese. About 10 or 15 Japanese military officers and civilians were also present in the procession. The ashes were carried by a cadet by the name of Virick. The procession went from Mrs. Sahay's house to the Renkoji temple, which was at a distance of about two miles from her house. On arrival at the temple, the ashes were put on the altar, and as the flowers and wreaths were placed, the religious ceremony was conducted by four or five Buddhist priests."

Lt. Col. Takakura says that he attended the funeral ceremony as a representative of the Imperial General Headquarters. There were approximately 100 persons, including some Japanese. The details of the procession given by Mr. J. Murti are corroborated by Rev. Mochizuki, priest of the Renkoji temple. About the ceremony he says: "The temple of which I am the priest is a Buddhist temple. When the ashes were brought, we placed them on a wooden stand. The ashes were contained in a small wooden box, about 8" cube. It was wrapped in white cloth on which was written **NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE**. I can read printed English a little. At the ceremony I called six other priests. I stood in the front. We burnt incense (*aggarbattis*). Mr. Murti gave 30 yens wrapped in a piece of paper. I distributed this sum amongst all the priests. . . . The ceremony lasted for one hour, after which people went away, and I stayed behind in the temple by the side of the ashes to make sure that nobody came and took them away."

6. According to Rev. Mochizuki, after the funeral ceremony it is customary for the people to take away the ashes, but in this case he was asked by Mr. Ramamurti, Mrs. Sahay and a Japanese Staff Officer to keep the ashes in a befitting manner, as they belonged to a great man, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. He agreed to do so till



such time as they could be delivered to the proper authorities. Every year on the 18th of August, Rev. Mochizuki offers prayers for the dead. From 1945 when the ashes were deposited till 1951 nobody came to see or pay respects to the ashes except Mr. Ramamurti. In May 1950, the then Head of the Indian Mission, Mr. K. I. Chettur, visited the temple. Since then, there have been many visitors including Mr. Ayer in 1951. Last year (1955) there was quite a big ceremony on the Death Anniversary Day, the 18th of August. A number of Japanese notables, including Madam Tojo, General Nakamura, General Kawabe, General Mutaguchi, General Katakura, attended. Our Committee visited the Renkoji temple and recorded a note which is enclosed (Annexure I). A series of photographs were taken showing the interior and exterior of the temple and the inner and outer caskets in which the ashes are kept. Copies of these will be found in Annexure II.

7. From what has been said, it will be seen that the ashes were moved in stages from the crematorium to Nishi Honganji temple from there to Minami Aerodrome, and thence to Tokyo Imperial General Headquarters. The progress thereafter was from Tokyo Imperial General Headquarters, first to Mr. Ramamurti's house, and then to Mrs. Sahay's house, and finally to the Renkoji temple. There is no break in the chain. From the first, i.e., from the crematorium the ashes were taken charge of by the Formosan Army, and responsible officers were concerned with its keeping in the Nishi Honganji temple, and its delivery to the Imperial General Headquarters. That the ashes were well looked after in the temple, as they have been deposited by the priest of a neighbouring temple. At Tokyo Imperial General Headquarters, the first Duty Officer kept the ashes in his own custody, and the next Duty Officer handed them over to the local representative of Netaji's Movement, Mr. Ramamurti. Messrs. Ramamurti and Ayer took delivery and, after due ceremony, installed the ashes in Renkoji temple. Since then, Rev. Mochizuki has looked after the ashes carefully. There is, therefore, good reason to believe that the ashes that were taken out from the crematorium at Taihoku, on or about the 21st of August 1945, were the same as those which were deposited at the Renkoji temple, Tokyo, on or about the 18th of September 1945, and the very same ashes remain in that temple today. It is true that such precautions as were necessary to preserve indisputable identity were not taken. At no stage was the casket containing the ashes sealed, no formal receipts issued, nor a continuous watch kept over it. So, although there cannot be absolute certainty, nevertheless, it can be said that, in all probability, the ashes kept in Renkoji temple, Tokyo, are the ashes of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

8. Three witnesses have expressed doubts that the ashes kept in the Renkoji temple are not the ashes of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.



Bose. One of the witnesses who had doubts is Mrs. Illa Pal Chowdhury, M.P. She went to Japan in a party with Mr. J. C. Sinha and another gentleman, in connection with the World Religionists Conference in 1955, and visited the Renkoji temple along with her companions. She says, "I got the feeling that the ashes were not Netaji's ashes, because the temple was in a very dilapidated condition. It is a tiny temple in an out of the way place. It is almost 18 to 20 miles out of Tokyo, it may be a little more or less. The ashes are kept in a casual manner, wrapped up in an old chaddar and the dignity which should accompany Netaji's ashes is not there. That is the feeling which I had and I would like to convey this to the Committee." It will be seen that this opinion is subjective, and not so much based on a study of the facts and circumstances. As for the condition of the temple, the information given by Mrs. Illa Pal is largely incorrect. The temple is not 18 to 20 miles out of Tokyo, but only 6 miles from the centre of the city, and is in that part of Tokyo known as Suginamiku. It is not in a dilapidated condition, but is in an excellent state of preservation. This will be seen from the photos of the exterior and interior of the temple, taken at the time when the Committee was in Tokyo in May-June 1956 (Annexure II).

There is no reason to believe that the temple was in a dilapidated condition a year back. The ashes are not kept in a casual manner, but well kept, and looked after by the priest, Rev. Mochizuki. The Renkoji temple was inspected by the members of the Committee on the 30th May 1956. An extract from the note (Annexure I) given below will show the condition of the temple and how the ashes are kept:

"The Renkoji temple is situated in Suginamiku quarter of Tokyo, about 6 miles from the centre of the town, where the Indian Embassy is situated. The temple is of a moderate size, built of timber in the usual style of Japanese Buddhist temples. Around it is a small Japanese garden. The temple, although not very large, is well kept. The ashes are kept in the main shrine just behind the altar in a large glass case. In this case are kept various venerated objects, such as gilded images of *Bodhisattvas*. On the left-hand side of the glass case is a small wooden casket in the shape of a pagoda about 2 ft. high. In front of it is a small portrait of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. A larger photograph of Netaji is kept outside in the left-hand corner of the glass case. Incense was burning before it. Rev. Mochizuki took out from the pagoda-shaped casket a rectangular-shaped wooden box painted red. On opening it was revealed a small container about 8" cube covered with some kind of white cloth. On it was written in large English letters in black ink "NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE". The contents of



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the smaller container were not examined. As he was handling these objects, Rev. Mochizuki was intoning some sacred *mantras*. One by one, he put back the containers into their original positions and securely locked with a key the door of the glass case. . . . As in the case of most Japanese temples, the temple was very clean, both inside and outside. The Committee was satisfied that Rev. Mochizuki takes good care of the ashes, and they are being kept properly within the limited means of the authorities of the Renkoji temple."

9. The reasons for doubt given by Mr. J. C. Sinha, who went along with Mrs. Illa Pal in 1955, are somewhat different. He says that he had met one Mr. Virick, a young man, who was one of the Tokyo Cadets (I.N.A.) during the war. He was the cadet who had carried the urn containing the ashes to the Renkoji temple on the day of the original funeral ceremony on the 18th September 1945. Mr. Virick had returned to Japan, and was studying in the Tokyo University. His name was mentioned in this connection specifically by witness Mr. J. Murti. From Mr. Sinha's statement it appears that Mr. Virick who went with him had some difficulty in finding his way to the temple, and in finding out where the urn was kept. Mr. Virick confessed to Mr. Sinha that since depositing the ashes in 1945 he had not been to the Renkoji temple. Mr. Sinha has given the reason for his disbelief. He says, "... had they been Netaji's ashes, as Mr. Virick told me, the person who is in Tokyo for the last three years from today, and if he had been really that person who had carried the ashes to the temple, should have visited that temple a number of times to pay his homage and respects to that great departed leader." Mr. Virick was in Tokyo as a cadet when he was a boy. It is presumed that like others he was repatriated soon after the war terminated. Years have passed and he again came back to Tokyo as a University student apparently in 1952-53. As a young cadet he could not have had much to do with Netaji, and one cannot say how much boyish impression the grown-up man retained. In any case, it would hardly be fair or logical to arrive at any conclusion about the genuineness of the ashes on the basis of personal reactions—apparent lack of attachment for the same ashes on the part of Mr. Virick.

10. The third person who cast doubt is Mr. S. M. Goswami. Mr. Goswami appeared before the Committee twice. In his second statement recorded on the 16th June, Mr. Goswami says that whereas in 1953 he found that the writing on the urn of the words "NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE'S ASHES" was in italics, he was surprised to find a picture in *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, dated the 5th June 1956, that the writing "NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE" was in block letters. He concluded that the whole thing



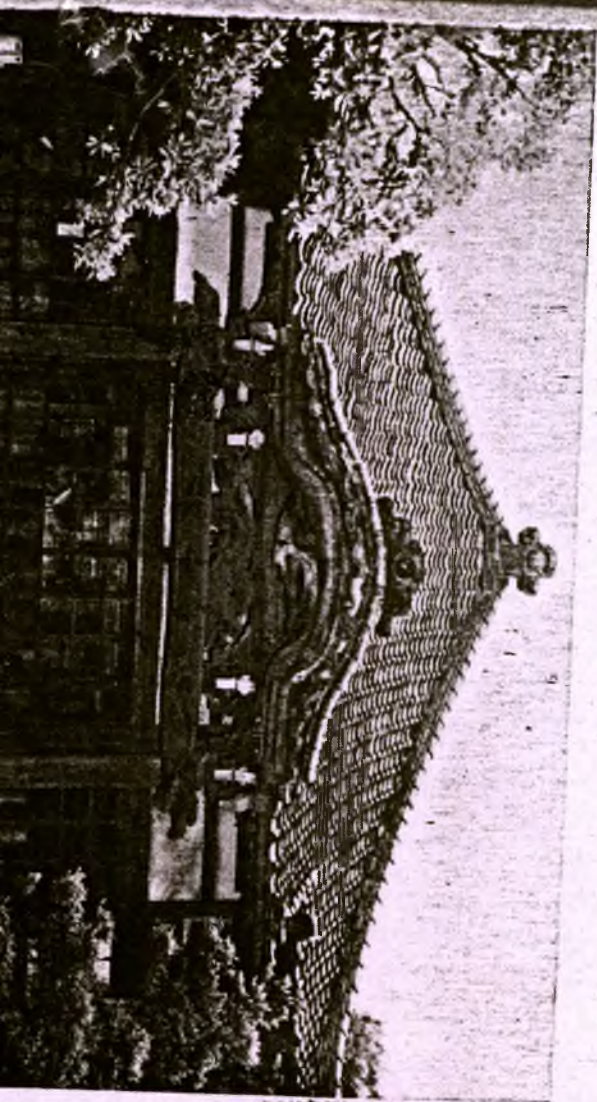
*Renkoji temple in Tokyo*



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*The priest of Renkoji temple, holding Netaji's portrait and the casket  
(FROM Amrita Bazar Patrika)*

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had been changed since 1953. On looking at the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, dated the 5th June 1956, that is, the picture of the urn appearing on its front page, it is seen that the writing is in block letters and not in italics.

Mr. Ayer went to Tokyo and visited the Renkoji temple in 1951. He has submitted a photo of the urn. The Committee also took a photo of the urn in June 1956. The writing on all these photos "NETAJI. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE" appears to be identical. They are in block letters. A copy of the photo submitted by Mr. Ayer and the one taken by the Committee are enclosed (Annexure II). It will be seen that Mr. Goswami has made a completely erroneous statement. After having examined the statement of these witnesses, it is clear that the reasons for doubting that the ashes did not belong to Netaji, are either based on insubstantial grounds, or on wrong facts and therefore have to be discarded.

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## CHAPTER VI

### TREASURE

ALTHOUGH in the terms of reference of the Committee, there was no mention of the treasure carried by Netaji on his last flight, in the course of their examination a number of witnesses spoke of the treasure. In fact, in Japan, to judge from newspaper articles, there was keen interest as to what happened to this treasure. In view of the public interest in the subject, and evidence given before them the Committee feel that some mention should be made in this Report about this treasure.

2. It was the intention of Netaji to depend as little as possible on his Japanese allies, and to finance the Indian National Army from resources collected from Indian residents in South-East Asia. For this purpose, regular collection drives were made by Netaji and his lieutenants, and large funds were collected. A special committee called "Netaji Fund Committee" was established under the Minister of Revenue. Gold and other valuables were generously donated by Indians in South-East Asia. On the occasion of his Birthday in January 1945, Netaji was weighed against gold. Not only cash and valuables, but immovable properties used to be donated. Habib Sahib of Rangoon gave away at one time all his estate in landed property, cash and jewellery valued at Rupees one crore and three lakhs. In return he asked from Netaji a pair of khaki shirt and shorts, so that he might work for the Independence Movement (Page 160 of Major General A. C. Chatterjee's book *India's Struggle for Freedom*). The Funds of the Azad Hind Government were handled by the Azad Hind Bank. How much of the liquid assets were carried by Netaji during his retreat from Rangoon onwards is not precisely known. Mr. Debnath Das says that at the time of the retreat from Rangoon, treasure valued at Rupees one crore consisting mostly of ornaments and gold bars, was withdrawn from the Azad Hind Bank, and taken away packed in 17 small sealed boxes. General Bhonsle says that Netaji had brought with him to Bangkok gold ornaments and cash packed in six steel boxes. The jewellery was a gift from Indians in South-East Asia. He did not see the jewellery, and had no idea of its value. Mr. Dinanath, Chairman of the Azad Hind Bank, who was interrogated by the British Intelligence soon after the end of the war, had said that on the 24th April 1945 when Netaji left Rangoon, he took with him from the Bank 140 lbs. of gold. According to Pandit Raghunath Sharma, one of the leaders of the Indian Independence League at Bangkok, Netaji took with him gold and other valuables, which



were collected from the people, of a total value exceeding Rupees one crore. That some valuables were carried by Netaji with him is clear from the evidence, but from the very start doubt and discrepancies creep in as to the size and value of the treasure. Pandit Raghunath Sharma has stated that the valuables were kept in 10 or 12 steel boxes—13"×12"×10"; some a little smaller than others. General Bhonsle says that the contents of six steel boxes were re-packed in two canvas bags at the time of Netaji's departure. But Mr. Debnath Das has said that, before leaving Bangkok, the contents of the 17 treasure boxes mentioned by Mr. Das were re-packed into two large suit-cases, 30" to 36" long. It is doubtful whether gold and ornaments of the value of Rupees one crore could be carried in two large leather suit-cases. Netaji's personal valet, Kundan Singh, was examined by the Committee. According to him, the treasure was packed in 4 steel cases of different sizes—20"×13"×16" and 12"×6"×6". He was present at the time when the boxes were checked before Netaji's departure from Bangkok. He says, "The boxes contained articles of jewellery which are commonly worn by Indian women such as chains, of ladies' watches, necklaces, bangles, bracelets, earrings, etc. They were mostly of ladies. There were also pounds and guineas. There were some chains which had guinea pieces attached to them. There were small gold wires, but there were no gold bars. . . . Besides these 4 boxes containing the treasure, Netaji's personal effects, and certain other valuable articles which he had brought from Singapore, were kept in a small leather attache case. These contained a gold cigarette case which was presented to Netaji by Hitler." Lt. Kunizuka of the Hikari Kikan who was constantly in touch with Netaji mentions that he was shown the valuables the same night, and agrees with Kundan Singh, although he does not mention the number of boxes.

3. On his last visit, Netaji made heavy payments both at Singapore and Bangkok. His Japanese Secretary and Interpreter, Mr. Negishi, says that before leaving Singapore, as ordered by Netaji, he withdrew from the Japanese Bank 8 crore yens out of a loan of 10 crores from the Japanese Government. It was drawn in paper money, and spent in payments to I.N.A. and civilian personnel. Mr. Debnath Das says that on the 17th August, just before leaving Bangkok, Netaji made large last-minute gifts of 1½ million ticals to Chulalongkorn Hospital and University and sanctioned two to three months' pay to all officers and men of the I.N.A. He adds that this was not paid out of the treasure brought from Burma, but from the funds of the Thailand Indian Independence League. The same witness has said that among the baggage of Netaji was a large suitcase containing documents and currency. The picture of the last hurried days is confused. It is not known how much Netaji withdrew, how much was spent, and how much in gold and jewellery



he took with him. As documents were destroyed to avoid falling into Allied hands, reconstruction would be difficult. The only thing that can be said is that Netaji disbursed large amounts in the final stages, and took some valuables and ornaments, etc., with him. Netaji apparently did not want to take the treasure with him. According to the evidence of Pandit Raghunath Sharma, a few days previously Netaji had enquired of him whether he would take charge of the treasure to which Pandit Raghunath Sharma did not agree. Mr. Debnath Das has stated that again at Saigon Airfield Netaji proposed that he would leave the treasure behind. Mr. Debnath Das and Major Hasan did not agree to this, and so Netaji carried the valuables with him.

4. Indian and Japanese witnesses have all deposed clearly about the treasure in Saigon. The plane was held up for about half an hour, as the car carrying the boxes of valuables was delayed. All witnesses have stated that the number of cases which came out of the second car was two and they were hurriedly pushed into the plane, in spite of the protest of the pilot. General Isoda has said that Major Hasan rushed up to say that the two boxes containing presents to Netaji by 3 lakhs of Indians in East Asia had not arrived and so Netaji delayed departure by half an hour till the boxes came. General Isoda did not know what the boxes contained, but from what Major Hasan said he presumed that they contained gold and jewellery. While most witnesses say that the boxes were leather suit-cases about 30" long, Captain Gulzara Singh and Col. Pritam Singh have said that they were wooden boxes of a smaller size. According to Mr. Negishi, he was told by some Hikari Kikan officers that Netaji's baggage included 150 kilos of gold bullion. He goes on to say that some of this treasure accompanied Netaji while the rest of it was left with the party at Saigon to meet various expenses. Be that as it may, it may be taken as conclusive, that from Saigon Netaji carried with him two large leather suit-cases about 30" long containing gold and valuables. While, as stated before, it may be discounted that the value was anything like Rupees one crore, there is no evidence on record which gives the details of the contents of the suit-cases, or any indication of their value.

5. The plane crashed at Taihoku on the 18th of August. Col. Habibur Rehman has stated that he enquired next day as to what happened to the baggage, particularly the two leather suit-cases which contained gold and jewellery. He was told that the plane was completely burnt, and with it the luggage, but some charred jewellery had been salvaged, and kept in safe custody at the Military Headquarters. The collection was done under the supervision of two Japanese Officers, Major K. Sakai, Officer in charge of the aerodrome defence, and Captain Nakamura alias Yamamoto, Officer in charge of the aerodrome. According to Major Sakai, when



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he came to the scene two hours after the accident, he found Captain Nakamura and his men collecting articles lying on the ground. As their number was insufficient, he lent 30 of his men. Captain Nakamura, on the other hand, says that on being asked by Lt. Col. Nonogaki, he asked his men to collect the valuables. He came and found Major Sakai's men under one Lt. Yamashida doing the collection. Both officers, however, agree that charred and blackened jewellery such as necklaces, rings, medals, etc., were collected. These were put in an 18-litre gasoline can, the top of which was sealed by means of strips of paper on which the officers placed their own seals. About the subsequent disposal there is a slight discrepancy. According to Major Sakai, the can of valuables was kept only one night under guard, and delivered the next day to Lt. Col. Shibuya at the Headquarters. On the other hand, Captain Nakamura says that the can was kept for 4 or 5 days in the air-raid shelter under guard, and thereafter delivered to Lt. Col. Shibuya. On the 5th of September, Col. Habibur Rehman was flown to Tokyo. With him went Lt. T. Sakai and Lt. Hayashida who had been detailed by the Army Headquarters, Formosa, to carry with them Netaji's ashes and his valuables. Major Sakai and Captain Nakamura *alias* Yamamoto have both spoken of an 18-litre gasoline can. Lt. Col. Shibuya, Staff Officer of the Headquarters, also mentions the can. Lt. Col. T. Sakai in his statement describes the container as "one baggage as big as an oil can". But Col. Habibur Rehman and Lt. Hayashida speak of a wooden box.

6. The box of valuables was delivered on the evening of the 7th September at the Imperial General Headquarters, Tokyo. The Duty Officer, Major Kinoshita, who first received it, made over charge next morning to Lt. Col. Takakura. Both say that the box was a wooden box nailed down but not sealed. How a sealed gasoline can could become a nailed wooden box is not clear. According to Lt. Col. Takakura, on the 8th September morning he phoned Mr. Ramamurti who came with Mr. Ayer and took charge both of Netaji's ashes and valuables. Mr. Ramamurti says that two or three days after his arrival in Tokyo (that would be 9th or 10th September), Col. Habibur Rehman asked him to bring the box of valuables, and Mr. Ramamurti accordingly went and brought it from the Imperial General Headquarters. The box was a heavy wooden box, and a porter was engaged to carry it. Col. Habibur Rehman says that a few days after his arrival in Tokyo, Messrs. Ayer and Ramamurti were called to the Imperial General Headquarters and the box containing the valuables was handed over to them. Mr. J. Murti corroborates his brother. Mr. Ayer does not say where the box was received, but indicates that in the last week of September he chanced upon Col. Rehman, Mr. Ramamurti and Mr. J. Murti cleaning and sorting out the charred jewellery in the house he and



Col. Habibur Rehman were occupying. There are major discrepancies as to the date, and who received the box. While Mr. Ramamurti says that Col. Habibur Rehman satisfied himself that the box was indeed the same box that had been packed before him at Taihoku, Col. Habibur Rehman says that the seals of the box were broken; it appeared to have been tampered with, was much lighter and only half full. The contents were found to be ornaments of gold and precious stones, all charred, mixed and fused with metals and small bits from the wreckage. They were roughly sorted into three lots, according to whether they contained gold or base metal. Afterwards they were re-packed into a box and nailed. The weight of the valuables was found to be 11 grams. This was noted, and a rough list was made and signed by Col. Habibur Rehman, a photostat copy of which is enclosed (Annexure I). Col. Rehman left the valuables in the charge of Mr. Ramamurti to be handed over to any authority which arose in the future in succession to Netaji's Movement. At the same time, Mr. Ramamurti left 300 grams of gold and 20,000 yens in cash with Mr. Ramamurti with similar direction. They did this in order to avoid the valuables from being confiscated by the Allies.

7. Mr. Murti kept the valuables with him from 1945 to 1951. Mr. Murti did not keep the money in a Bank. When asked, he said he did this so that the Occupation authorities, who would know the assets of Japanese Banks, might not confiscate the valuables. He did not take any steps to contact any Indian authorities during all these years. In fact, there is reason to believe that he did not have the treasure with him. He made no attempt to contact the Indian Mission in Tokyo. He says that he was in correspondence with Mr. Ayer and the latter had advised him not to take any action till the connected matter of Netaji's ashes was satisfactorily settled. Mr. Ayer came to Japan in 1951, and it was only then that Mr. Ramamurti acknowledged that the treasure was with him. He expressed willingness to hand over the same to the Indian Mission in Tokyo. He admitted that he had partly financed Mr. Ayer's trip to Japan. On his return to India, Mr. Ayer met the Prime Minister and suggested that the treasure might be taken over by the Government through the Indian Mission in Tokyo. The Prime Minister agreed to this and, on instruction from him, the treasure was taken over by the Indian Mission on the 24th September 1951. The First Secretary of the Mission, Mr. V. C. Trivedi, signed a receipt on the copy of the list made over by Col. Rehman to Mr. Ramamurti in 1945. On the same day, Mr. Ramamurti also handed over 300 grams of gold and 20,000 yens which had been left with him by Mr. Ayer. The valuables were again checked and weighed by the Indian Mission and the weight was found to be a little less than noted in Col. Rehman's original list.



8. The valuables were brought to India and have been kept in the National Museum at Rashtrapati Bhavan. As mentioned, the Committee inspected these valuables at the Museum. Their estimated value is Rupees one lakh. The Museum was inspected twice, and on the second occasion the Committee went along with Kundan Singh, Netaji's personal valet. As already mentioned in Chapter III, Kundan Singh identified a number of articles as belonging to Netaji. The articles found in the Museum were jewellery, and trinkets of the kind, which different witnesses have testified as gifts to Netaji from the Indian public in South-East Asia and which he carried with him on his last journey. It is evident that the charred and damaged pieces of gold and jewellery, etc., which are in the National Museum, formed part of Netaji's baggage in his last journey, which was salvaged from Taihoku Airfield and later recovered from Mr. Murti. It is also seen that what was handed over by Mr. Murti in 1951 tallied with the list signed by Col. Habibur Rehman in 1945. But it is not clear how much was carried by Netaji, and how much of it was recovered. Two suit-cases in which Netaji took the valuables were not weighed. We have only the evidence of witnesses that they were fairly heavy! Only one witness, Lt. Col. Nonogaki, has mentioned the weight as 20 kilos each. Only 11 kilograms of burnt-down jewellery mixed with base metal and ashes had been recovered. Quite clearly, the quantity that has been recovered is much less than what Netaji carried with him. There are a large number of gaps and discrepancies in the chain. It is not clear whether the plane was cordoned off immediately after the crash, and the collection of valuables begun under proper supervision. After it was collected, there is discrepancy as to whether it was left for some days in an air-raid shelter, or taken next morning to the Japanese Military Headquarters at Taihoku. There is doubt as to the container. Some say it was a gasoline can, while others say that it was a wooden box. If the gasoline can was originally filled and sealed, there is no evidence to show who opened it, and why, and put the contents again in a wooden box. The wooden box that was handed over in Tokyo to Mr. Ramamurti was not sealed, but only nailed. Whereas Major Takakura says that he handed over the box to Mr. Murti and Mr. Ayer along with the ashes, Mr. Murti says that only he was asked to come and take the box of valuables a few days after taking delivery of the ashes. Col. Rehman says that Messrs. Ayer and Murti went and brought the box from the Imperial General Headquarters. According to Mr. Ayer, he was not called, but came as if by accident, while Mr. Murti, his brother, and Col. Rehman were cleaning and sorting out broken pieces of jewellery. No receipt was taken or given by the General Headquarters. While Mr. Murti says that Col. Rehman was satisfied that the box was in the same order as he had packed it in Taihoku,



Col. Rehman says that the box appeared to him to have been tampered with, much lighter in weight, and less than half full. So it is far from clear as to what was collected from Taihoku Airfield, whether and when the container was changed, whether there was any subtraction, and who took delivery of it in Tokyo and when. From the evidence available to us, it is not possible to come to any definite conclusion about the treasure. If it is considered desirable to go more closely into the matter, it may be necessary to institute a separate enquiry, whose scope might well include not only the treasure that was carried by Netaji on his last journey and its recovery, but also examination of the entire assets and liabilities, in cash and kind, of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind. It is, however, not certain, how far such an enquiry would be profitable after this lapse of time, especially when such records, as they were, must have been largely destroyed

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CHAPTER VII

RECOMMENDATION

THE Committee has come to the conclusion that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose met his death in an air crash, and that the ashes now at Renkoji temple, Tokyo, are his ashes. Rev. Mochizuki and the trustees of the Renkoji temple have already kept the ashes for a number of years. Their services deserve to be recognised. If the ashes are taken to be genuine, Renkoji temple cannot obviously be their final resting place. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose died ten years ago. It is time that his ashes were brought to India with due honour, and a memorial erected over them at a suitable place. This we recommend for the serious consideration of the Government of India. It may be mentioned in this connection that influential circles in Japan are considering putting up a memorial to Netaji in that country. If Netaji's mortal remains are honoured, and his ideals kept alive, then one could truly ask "Where is death's sting, where, grave thy victory?"

(Sd.) SHAH NAWAZ KHAN

S. N. MAITRA



*Gaimusho's Report regarding Enquiry into the Crash*

THE GAIMUSHO,

June 4th, 1956.

Dear Mr. Dar,

In compliance with the request of the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Enquiry Commission, made at the Third Regular Meeting on May 26, 1956, I wish to state in reply as follows:

- (1) *Official Enquiry Commission on the Accident of the Plane wherein Netaji was emplaned.*

As a result of investigation made at the Operation Section, Repatriation Relief Bureau, Ministry of Health and Welfare, it has been revealed that no official enquiry commission to determine the causes of the accident in question was held so far.

- (2) \* \* \* \* \*

I should appreciate it very much if you would be good enough to transmit the above reply to the said Commission.

Sincerely yours,

HISAJI HATTORI,

Chief of 4th Section, Asian Affairs Bureau,  
GAIMUSHO.

Mr. A. K. Dar,  
First Secretary,  
Embassy of India.

**Note on local Inspection of Renkoji Temple, Tokyo**

On the 30th May after concluding the evidence of Rev. Mochizuki, the head priest of the Renkoji temple, the members of the Committee visited the Renkoji temple accompanied by Rev. Mochizuki and five lay members of the Temple Committee. The Renkoji temple is situated in Sugnamiku quarter of Tokyo, about 6 miles from the centre of the town where the Indian Embassy is situated. The temple is of a moderate size, built of timber in the usual style of Japanese Buddhist temples. Around it is a small Japanese garden. The temple, although not very large, is well kept. The ashes are kept in the main shrine. Just behind the altar is a large glass case. In this case are kept various venerated objects such as gilded images of *Bodhisattvas*. On the left hand side of the glass case is a small wooden casket in the shape of a pagoda about 2 ft. high. In front of it is a small portrait of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. A larger photograph of Netaji is kept outside in the left hand corner of the glass case. Incense was burning before it. Rev. Mochizuki took out from the pagoda-shaped casket a rectangular-shaped wooden box painted red. On opening it was revealed a small container about 8" cube covered with some kind of white cloth. On it was written in large English letters in black ink "Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose". The contents of the smaller container were not examined. As he was handling these objects, Rev. Mochizuki was intoning some sacred *mantra*. One by one, he put back the container into their original positions, and securely locked with a key the door of the glass case. Before entering the shrine, the Committee was entertained to tea in the Japanese style by the priest and members of the Temple Committee. In all, our Committee spent about half an hour at the temple. As in the

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case of most Japanese temples, the temple was very clean both inside and outside. The Committee was satisfied that Rev. Mochizuki takes good care of the ashes, and they are being kept properly within the limited means of the authorities of the Renkoji temple.

Shri Debnath Das.  
171/3, Rash Behari Avenue,  
Calcutta-19.  
The 13th June, 1956.

To  
The Chairman,  
Netaji Enquiry Commission,  
Government of India,  
NEW DELHI.

Sir,

Enclosed herewith you will kindly find some papers in connection with steps that Netaji adopted to continue India's struggle for freedom. I could not submit these papers when I appeared to give evidence since they were kept at some of my friend's house and could not be had in time.

1. This is the English translation of the message received by Netaji from Tokyo through the Southern Command in reply to Netaji's enquiry on the attitude of the Japanese Government to extend facilities to proceed to Russia with some of his associates should he (Netaji) so desired in the event of Japan's collapse. The English version is, no doubt, rendered by some Japanese officer as was usual and was submitted along with the original letter that was in Japanese. This was delivered to Netaji by the second week of June 1945. (The original English typed copy of this message submitted by the Hikari Kikan is in my possession, enclosed one being the true copy.)

2 & 3. \* \* \*

Jai Hind.  
DEBNATH DAS.

**Copy of Tokyo Telegram to Southern Command Regarding Netaji's  
Opinion for their Consideration**

1. The opinion of the Nippon Government with regard to Your Excellency's plan of approaching the Soviet is as follows:

- (a) Not only the assistance by Nippon Government to Your Excellency who are firmly determined to co-operate to the last with Nippon in order to attain the object of Indian Independence remains wholly unchanged but it also desires to still further strengthen the spiritual tie.
- (b) Nippon Government pays a deep respect with its whole heart to Your Excellency's co-operation with Nippon on the moral strength to the utmost in order to attain Indian Independence, convinced of Nippon's certain victory and without resorting in the least to the opportunism of following in the wake of the powerful in spite of the present unfavourable world situation to Nippon. It may be added that the reason why the above (a) item which is apparently needless to mention has been repeated here is that the Government more than ever earnestly hopes that Your Excellency will push on fighting for the liberation of India with firm determination to display the spirit of live or die together by India and Nippon.
- (c) Nippon Government deems it almost without hope of success to get directly in touch with the Soviet Government on behalf of Your Excellency and it has no intention of doing so.



connected with one another and no longer in the service of their Government, and Japan not being a totalitarian State—would not be expected to state what was not true.

Enquiries made subsequently by (1) British Intelligence teams operating from Delhi, (2) British and American Intelligence teams operating from Tokyo, and (3) non-official enquiry, appear to corroborate the statements of these eye-witnesses and a few others who appeared on the scene immediately after.

A person of the status of Netaji as Head of a State that was not only recognised by Japan, but was helped materially in every way by Japan, and *vice versa*, was not given the requisite facility and honour due to him from the very start, viz., by providing a separate plane or seats for him and for all of his associates; treatment in a small hospital with a junior medical officer—a Captain; manner of cremation; disposal of ashes, etc., all without due honour and respect, viz., full military funeral, body placed on a gun carriage with full military honours, etc.

4. *Cremation. Preliminaries* by the two doctors and some of the subordinate Hospital staff.

*Main evidence* by (1) Habib, (2) Nakamura, and (3) Nagatoma—more or less corroborative.

*Regarding Habib*—oath of secrecy may be argued only.

*Regarding the other two*—no interestedness, so their stories supporting Habib take away most of the charge against Habib for oath of secrecy; in what way could they be obliged to Habib?

No other suggestion that the body was disposed of in any other manner—so body cremated.

The evidence of the doctors will have to be discussed very carefully, as it will surely be a matter of detailed criticism by eminent doctors throughout the world.

5. *Ashes.* Ashes from the crematorium to Renkoji temple is a long way—first to Nishi Honganji temple, then to Tokyo, etc.

There is nothing to show that there was tampering, but to prove that they were definitely those of Netaji, much more stringent measures required by law should have been taken and a different and very strict procedure, by way of seals, guards, etc., should have been taken.

In all probability, the ashes could be said to be those of Netaji.

6. *Treasure.* Comments should be minimum.

Evidence recorded by us should be placed in a guarded manner.

We may state that out of the quantity carried by Netaji, a portion eventually was deposited in the National Archives.

We should state that this may be the subject-matter of a separate Enquiry and this Enquiry should start from the complete assets, in cash and kind, and liabilities of the Azad Hind Government.

7. *Shri Thevar's statements and statements of Shri Goswami.* Their statements should be discussed while dealing with Netaji's death or otherwise and a little more in detail separately later on.

*Draft by:* Shri S. N. Maitra.

*Draft:* 10-7-1956

*Discussion, correction and finalisation:* 13-7-1956.

*Submission to Government of India:* 16-7-1956.

(Sd.) S. C. BOSE

2-7-56

S. N. MAITRA

2-7-56.

SHAH NAWAZ KHAN

2-7-56.



Habitat on Redwood

Photostat copy of list of treasure, signed by Col. Habibur Rehman



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24/11/45

To Sir Ronald McKinnon

I am leaving with you  
 including 2000 Mace of gold and  
 1000 Mace of silver. As a proper  
 time and place, kindly hand  
 this to a confidential national  
 authority, which will  
 maintain the existence of the  
 existence to handle affairs  
 arising as a result of the  
 consequent for his is his personal  
 to the Mace, but has a hand  
 box in 2nd floor. The gold is  
 in a box and brought it from  
 before the card is balance after

changing the star into  
 Yen and meeting my expenses  
 during my stay in Japan  
 since August 22, 1945.  
 The Mace in the star and the  
 exchange rate are  
 shown in the bank slip.

S. A. Ayer  
 15/11/45

Photostat copy of list of treasure, signed by Mr. S. A. Ayer



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'Copy of Telegram' dated 21st July 1956, from Indembassy, Peking, addressed to Foreign, New Delhi

Concerning alleged photograph of SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE: We showed this to Foreign Office who have informed us that photograph is of LEE KE HUNG, Medical Superintendent of P.U.M.C. (Peking University Medical College.)

List of Witnesses examined by the Committee

S. No.	Name	Date	Place
1.	Shri Thevar	4th April 1956	New Delhi
2.	Shri Debnath Das	5th April 1956	New Delhi
3.	Capt. Gulzara Singh	6th April 1956	New Delhi
4.	Col. Habibur Rehman	6th to 9th April 1956	New Delhi
5.	Col. Pritam Singh	10th April 1956	New Delhi
6.	Shri S. A. Ayer	11th and 12th April, and morning of 14th April 1956.	New Delhi
7.	General Bhonsle	16th April 1956	New Delhi
8.	Shri A. K. Gupta	16th April 1956	New Delhi
9.	Shri Harin Shah	16th and 17th April 1956.	New Delhi
10.	Col. Thakur Singh	17th April 1956	New Delhi
11.	Shri Majumdar	20th April 1956	Calcutta
12.	Shri Kunizuka	23rd April 1956	Calcutta
13.	Lt. N. B. Das	23rd April 1956	Calcutta
14.	Shri H. K. Roy	24th April 1956	Calcutta
15.	Shri Kalipada Dey	24th April 1956	Calcutta
16.	Shri S. M. Goswami	24th April and 9th June 1956.	Calcutta
17.	Shri J. C. Sinha	25th April 1956	Calcutta
18.	Shri Deben Das	25th April 1956	Calcutta
19.	Shri H. Singha	25th April 1956	Calcutta
20.	Mr. Negishi	25th April 1956	Calcutta
21.	Col. H. L. Chopra	26th April 1956	Calcutta
22.	Shri D. N. Bose	26th April and 8th June 1956.	Calcutta
23.	Mrs. Pal Chowdhury, M.P.	26th April	Calcutta
24.	Shri A. Bose	26th April and 8th June 1956.	Calcutta
25.	Pandit Raghunath Sharma	28th April	Bangkok
26.	S. Ishar Singh	28th April 1956	Bangkok
27.	Shri U. C. Sharma	28th April 1956	Bangkok
28.	Shri A. C. Das	30th April 1956	Bangkok
29.	Shri Ramneo Gosai	1st May 1956	Saigon
30.	Shri A. M. Sahay	1st and 3rd May 1956	Saigon



S. No.	Name	Date	Place
31.	Shri Dastgir	2nd May 1956	Tourane
32.	Mr. Hachiya	8th May 1956	Tokyo
33.	Shri Narain Das	8th May 1956	Tokyo
34.	Capt. Arai	9th May and morning of 10th May 1956.	Tokyo
35.	General Isoda	10th and 12th May 1956	Tokyo
36.	Mr. J. Murti	11th May 1956	Tokyo
37.	Lt. Col. Nonogaki	14th May 1956	Tokyo
38.	Mr. Watanabe	14th May 1956	Tokyo
39.	Dr. Tsuruta	15th May 1956	Tokyo
40.	Mr. Sato Kazo	16th May 1956	Tokyo
41.	Major Kono	16th May 1956	Tokyo
42.	Mr. Suriya Miyata	17th May 1956	Tokyo
43.	Major Takahashi	17th May 1956	Tokyo
44.	Col. Yano	18th May 1956	Tokyo
45.	Major Kinoshita	21st May 1956	Tokyo
46.	Lt. Col. Takakura	21st May 1956	Tokyo
47.	Mr. T. Hayashida	22nd May 1956	Tokyo
48.	Dr. Yoshimi	22nd and 23rd May 1956	Tokyo
49.	Mr. Sen	22nd and 23rd May 1956	Tokyo
50.	Lt. Col. Shibuya	24th May 1956	Tokyo
51.	Capt. Yamamoto	25th May 1956	Tokyo
52.	Mrs. Yamamoto	25th May 1956	Tokyo
53.	Major Sakai	28th May 1956	Tokyo
54.	Mr. Kazo Nitshi	29th May 1956	Tokyo
55.	Mr. Nakamura	30th May 1956	Tokyo
56.	Rev. Mochizuki	30th May 1956	Tokyo
57.	General Isayama	31st May 1956	Tokyo
58.	Mr. Ota Hide Maru	31st May 1956	Tokyo
59.	Mr. Miyoshi	1st June 1956	Tokyo
60.	Major Nagatomo	1st June 1956	Tokyo
61.	Mr. Kitazawa	2nd June 1956	Tokyo
62.	Shri Asada	2nd June 1956	Tokyo
63.	Col. Figgess	5th June 1956	Tokyo
64.	Dr. Dutt	9th June 1956	Calcutta
65.	Shri Kundan Singh	19th June 1956	New Delhi
66.	Shri Ramamurti	21st June 1956	New Delhi
67.	Shri A. M. N. Sastri	27th June 1956	New Delhi

[Col. T. Sakai: Written statement.]

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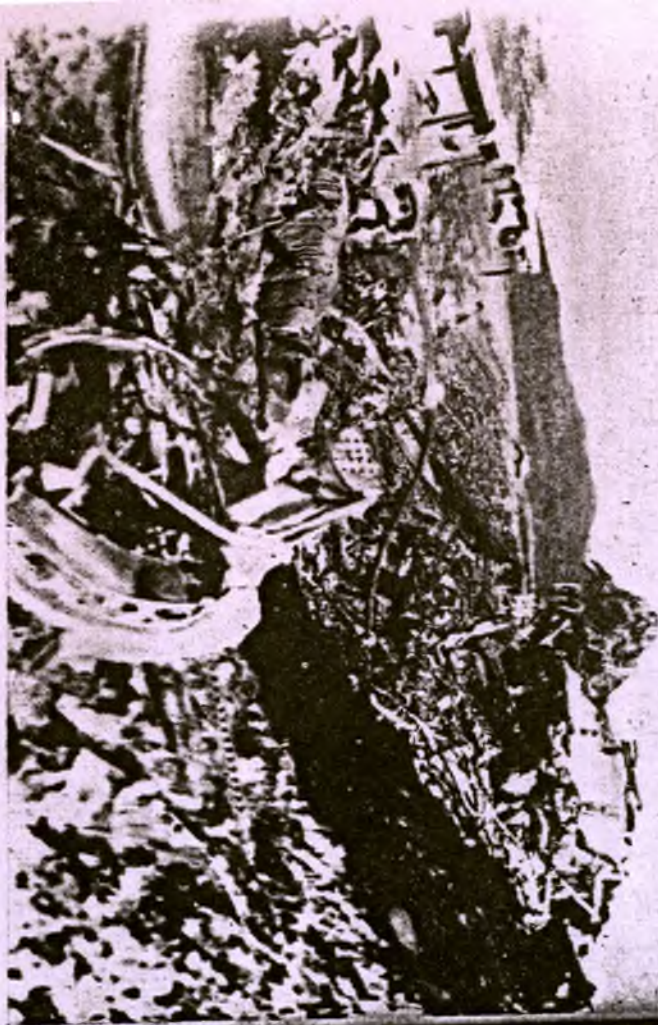


## ANNEXURE II

*(Photographs)**Wreckage of Plane at Taihoku*



*Wreckage of Plane at Taihoku*



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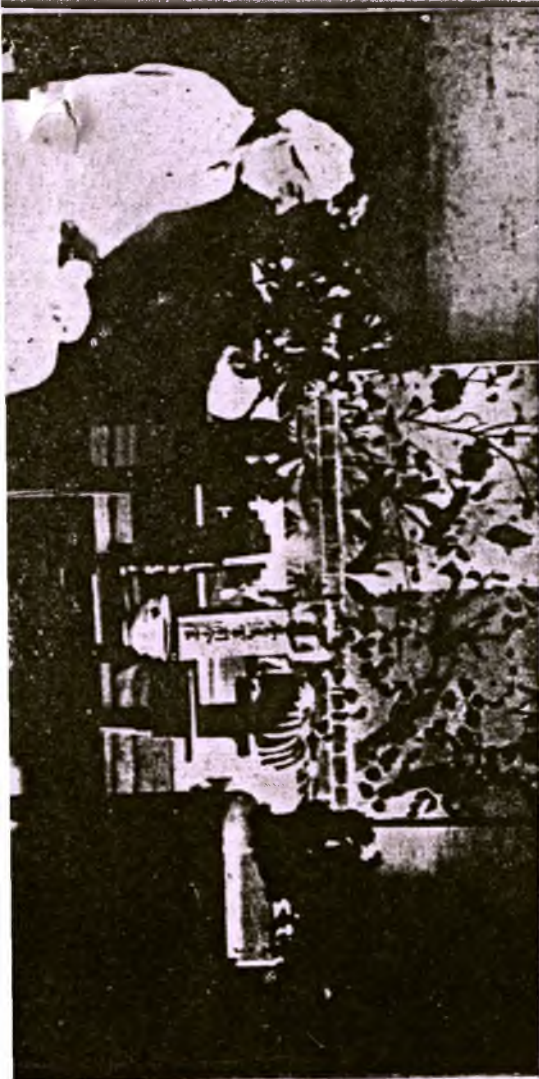
*Col. Habibur Rehman sitting by Netaji's ashes*



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*Object covered with a sheet*

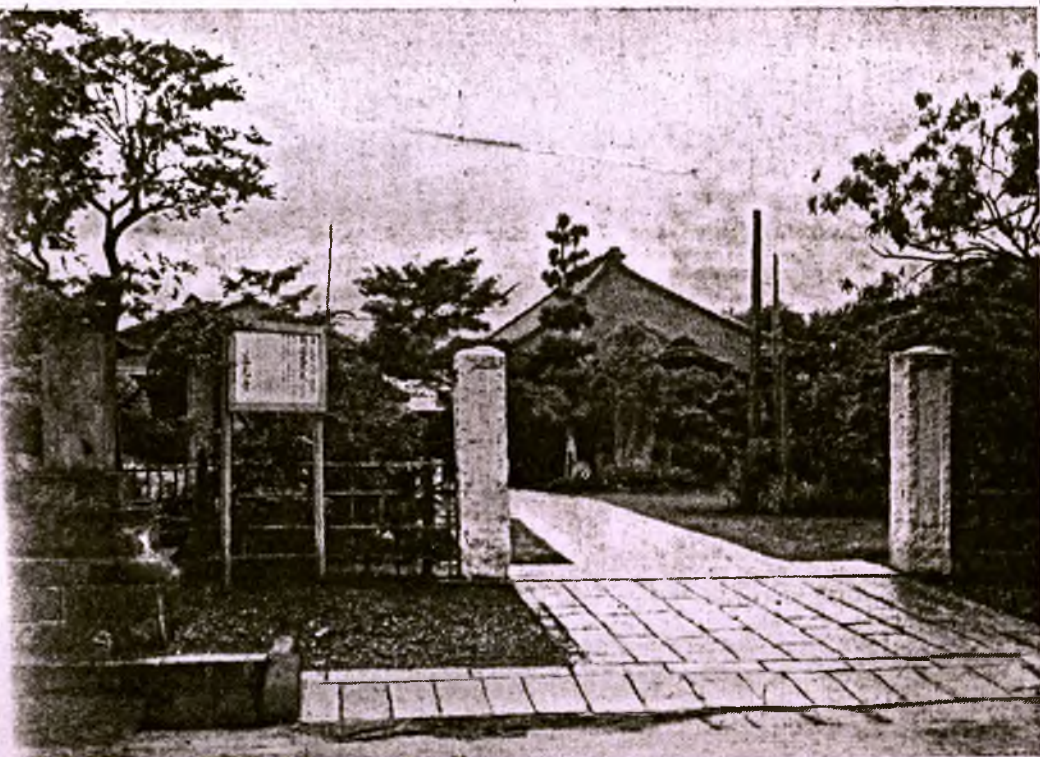
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*Exterior view of Renkoji temple*



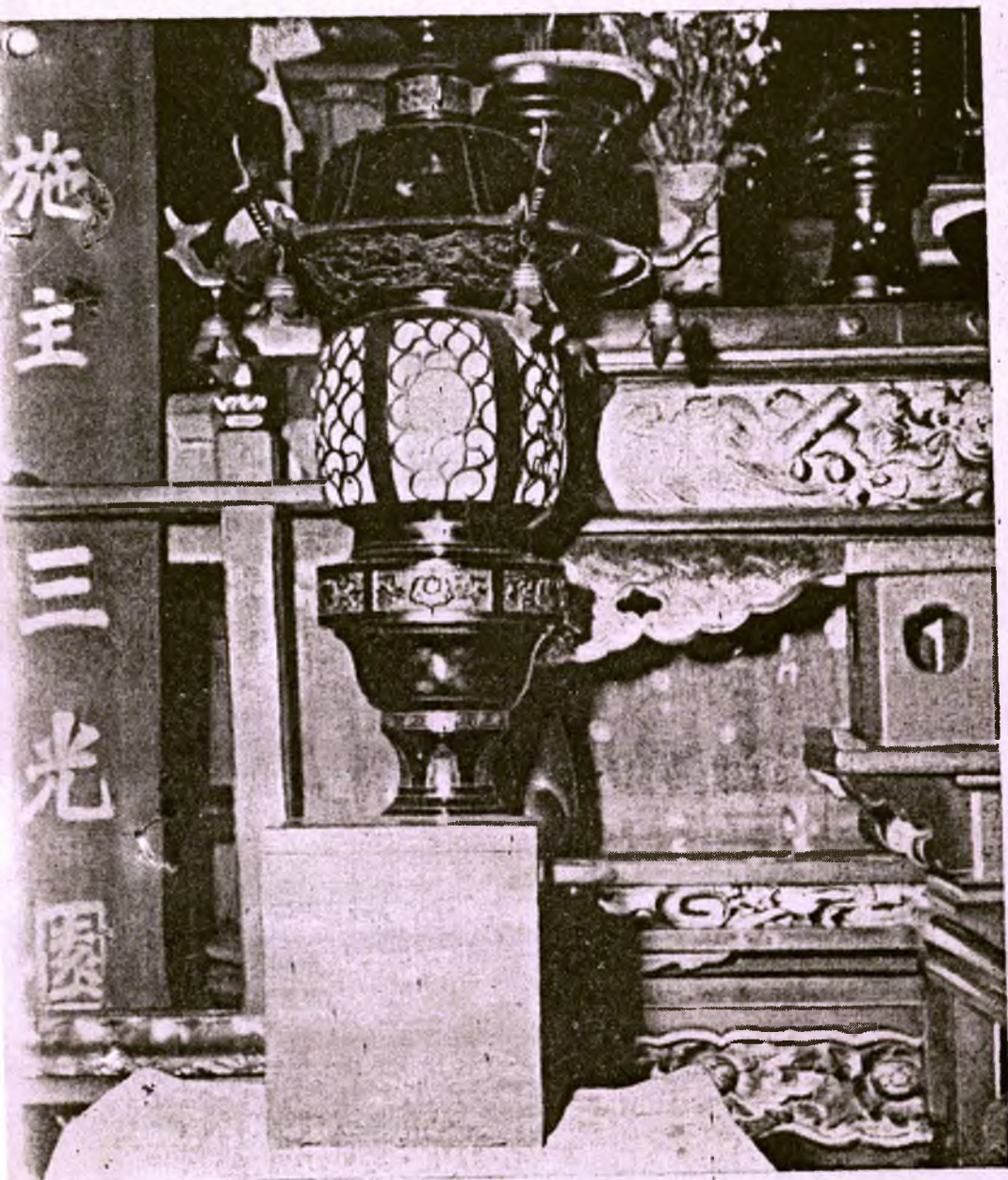


*Interior view of Renkoji temple, showing how Netaji's ashes are kept*

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*Ashes—Outer Casket*

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*Ashes—Inner, Casket*

ANNEXURE III—Sketches and plans of the aircraft and airfield at Talhok





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